PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
26 October 2009—5 November 2009

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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BARONESSES IN WAITING—The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, The Baroness Thornton, The Baroness Crawley

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* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*

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Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for London)
The Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, MP (Minister for the South West)
Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)
The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)
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Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—John Lyon, CB

Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

26 October 2009

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 26 October 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Informal Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): The following statement provides information on the EU Informal Competitiveness Council that took place in Umeå, Sweden on 14 and 16 October. My officials Andrew van der Lem, head of EU strategy (at the industry and internal market sessions on 14 and 15 October) and Professor Adrian Smith, director general of Science and Research (at the Research Council sessions on 15 and 16 October) represented the UK.

At the internal market session on 14 October, priorities for future EU single market policy were discussed. The Commission is planning to make proposals by 2012 on a new single market package. In discussion, member states prioritised recovery from the economic crisis and financial stability, focusing on external (i.e. outside EU) competitiveness, improving the business environment and boosting consumer confidence. The importance of implementation of the EU services directive was also stressed. The UK emphasised the need for a joined up approach to EU single market, industry and research policy, with a focus on outcomes, the evidence base and external competitiveness. The UK also stressed the need to make the EU single market more accessible. The presidency concluded there was broad support for a new Commission package on the single market.

At the industry session on 15 October, the presidency hosted a discussion on eco-efficiency from a competitiveness perspective, which included presentations by two businesses and a policy think-tank. The EU presidency suggested that EU member states should take a global lead in promoting growth and jobs through an eco-efficient economy. There was general support among member states that economic growth and environmental protection can be mutually reinforcing, not conflicting. However member states also stressed the need for a global "level playing field" and the importance of agreeing a global deal at the United Nations climate change conference at Copenhagen in December. In the informal breakout sessions, the UK stressed the need for the EU to be a good place to do business, for EU companies to have access to global markets, for a global carbon price to be agreed and for targeted EU funding and EU public procurement to help develop a low carbon economy.

At the research Council sessions on 15 and 16 October, on the afternoon of the first day research ministers held discussions in break out groups on the future governance structures of the European Research Area (ERA); the outcome of these discussions was considered in a plenary session in the morning of the second day. While there was little support for the idea of establishing regular "ERA Ministerial" meetings, there was agreement that links between research, innovation and education policies needed to be strengthened and that the mandate of the Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology (CREST) advisory committee needed to give that body a more strategic role. Ministers also discussed expected cost overruns on the international ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) nuclear fusion facility. The UK stressed the need to find an acceptable solution to the funding issue.

Correction to Response to Parliamentary Question

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): I would like to inform the House that a written answer I gave on 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 597W, to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and Poole North (Annette Brooke) was incorrect. To the question

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make provision for the vehicle scrappage scheme to be open to persons who have taken on the registration of a vehicle over 10-years-old which was initially registered in the name of their deceased spouse. [281255]

The correct answer was:

> We have reviewed this issue carefully given that we consider the case of a recently bereaved spouse or civil partner to be particularly compelling and we would want to be as helpful as possible to those in this situation, while still ensuring that the scheme and compliance with the rules can be administered simply and abuse can be minimised. We therefore propose, subject to the agreement of vehicle manufacturers, that where a bereaved spouse or civil partner shares the same address as the person who was the former keeper of the car, that the requirement that the old vehicle must have been registered to the keeper continuously for 12 months before the order date of the new vehicle should be cut to six months (on a rolling basis).
>
> In addition to complying with other rules of the scheme, the bereaved would need to produce an original or certified copy of their marriage certificate or certificate of civil partnership and of their spouse/civil partner's death certificate for the dealer to verify and copy.
>
> We have written to the manufacturers to seek their agreement to this change and will put revised guidance on the Department's website at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/sectors/automotive/scrappage/page51068.html as soon as we are clear which manufacturers have agreed to this change to the scheme.

I have written to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and Poole North to apologise for the administrative error, and provide the correct answer. I would also like to apologise to the House. The Department's procedures for dealing with the answering of parliamentary questions have been revised to avoid any future occurrence of this error.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Young People's Information, Advice and Guidance

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Today I will be launching a new strategy to transform information, advice and guidance (IAG) for young people.

"Quality, Choice and Aspiration" sets out our plans to deliver 21st century IAG that reflects what young people tell us they want and is more accessible and relevant, reflecting a rapidly changing economy. In line with our plans to raise the participation age to 18 our strategy will set out our ambition for every young person to receive careers education to 18. The reforms we are setting out today will make sure every young person, whatever their background, can aim for the top.

Raising the quality of IAG requires a new approach, one that brings together young people, those working in business and older peers, because they are often best placed to provide an understanding of all the different types of jobs young people might aspire to and the qualifications they will need to fulfil their ambitions.

Children begin to think about their future careers at an early age, so our strategy will support schools and parents working together to nurture the aspirations of children and develop their strengths, whether they are practical, academic or both.

This generation of young people look to the internet for knowledge in most areas. So this strategy signals a step change in online advice and guidance so young people are able to access IAG on Facebook, YouTube, blogs and other social networking sites.

Reflecting our approach to 21st century IAG, the strategy will include a number of new proposals:

> piloting approaches to teaching about careers in primary school and plans for primary schools to work with universities to give younger pupils an experience of higher education and the wider world of work;
>
> provide support and resource for schools and parents to engage with young people from an early age to talk about career opportunities;
>
> the ambition that every young person to have access to a mentor—two new national mentoring champions will help increase mentoring opportunities between schools, businesses and higher education;
>
> more help for disadvantaged and disabled young people in accessing work experience so that all young people—regardless of their background, ethnicity or gender—can realise their full potential;
>
> a £10 million fund to support innovative ways of delivering careers education.

This strategy has been informed and influenced by the important report "Fair Access to the Professions" by my right hon. Friend the Member for Darlington (Mr. Milburn) and his panel, published this summer. The plans outlined today build on my right hon. Friend's report and take forward the majority of the recommendations relevant to IAG.

Now more than ever young people need access to good IAG. This strategy sets out our vision. It puts in place the building blocks for an IAG system which gives every young person the high-quality support they need to release their talents, thus setting them on the path to success.

I am placing a copy of the strategy in the Libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

Standing Commission on Carers (Annual Report)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): Last week the Standing Commission on Carers published its first annual report, which I have today placed in the Library.

Entitled "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities—work in progress", the report concludes the first stage of the Commission's work (2007 to 2009) and highlights progress made against the main themes of the national carers strategy. It sets out future challenges and opportunities, and contains a number of recommendations and suggestions for the Government, delivery partners and the next phase of the Commission. I welcome the report and thank the Commission members for their work in scrutinising delivery of the strategy and their advice about future direction. The Government will carefully consider the recommendations and look forward to continuing to work with their stakeholders to achieve real benefits for carers.

Direct Payments for Health Care (Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): A consultation has been launched on the Government's proposals for piloting direct payments for health care. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Health Bill provides power to make regulations allowing direct payments in authorised pilot schemes. The consultation document outlines how we propose to use this power.

The direct payment pilots would form part of a wider pilot programme, announced in "High Quality Care For All", to explore personal budgets in the national health service.

Personal health budgets are intended to help create a more personalised NHS, by giving people more control over their care. Primary care trusts are already able to offer personal budgets that do not involve giving money directly to individual patients. The Health Bill would provide the additional option of a direct payment: where individuals receive money to arrange and pay for their own services.

This England-only consultation will last 12 weeks, finishing on 8 January 2010.

The consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. It can also be found at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_107425

HOME DEPARTMENT

National Identity Service (Cost Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The "Seventh Cost Report of the National Identity Service" is being laid before Parliament today. It sets out an estimate of the public expenditure likely to be incurred on the scheme over the next ten years, in accordance with section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. It reports on developments over the past six months, since the "Sixth Cost Report" was published on 6 May 2009. Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

MAPPA Annual Reports

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): The "Eight Annual Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements" (MAPPA) reports are published today. MAPPA bring together the police, probation and prison services in each of the 42 areas in England and Wales into what is known as the MAPPA "Responsible Authority". Other agencies are under a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority; including social care, health, housing and education services.

The aim of MAPPA is to ensure that the risk management plans drawn up for the more serious and complex offenders benefit from the information, skills and resources provided by the individual agencies being co-ordinated through MAPPA.

This year has seen major developments. Following very effective collaboration with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), we issued revised national guidance in April 2009 which incorporates learning from recent years. The guidance introduced new guidance on managing terrorist offenders, improved guidance on the particular demands of managing children and young persons within MAPPA, detailed guidance on the vital issue of disclosure of information about offenders, and the use of a new national documents set. The guidance represents a significant step forward in terms of establishing a detailed MAPPA framework with agreed good practice and performance standards to ensure consistent application of MAPPA across the country.

We also introduced two review processes, which are absolutely vital in terms of improving public protection practice and in showing that the agencies are willing to review cases of serious further offending by MAPPA offenders in order to identify whether there is any respect in which practice fell short of what the public has a right to expect. There is now an agreed process for reviewing specifically MAPPA management of offenders in cases of the most serious reoffending: the MAPPA serious case review. In addition, for the first time, there is a national police internal management review process in relation to the police management of registered sexual offenders.

Also for the first time this year, a national MAPPA training manual has been introduced based on best practice from the regions and supporting the new guidance.

The annual reports describe how the arrangements work locally and include key public protection achievements in each of the 42 police and probation areas of England and Wales. They report on progress against local business plans, outline next year's plans, and provide contact points for further information. They also provide statistical information on the number of offenders eligible for MAPPA and how they are managed.

Electronic copies of every area report are being made available to the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Lone Parents and Work

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): This week we are embarking on the next phase of our package to help more lone parents into employment and also support family life. Lone parents with a youngest child of 10 or above, making a new or repeat claim for benefit, will no longer be able to claim income support but will claim jobseeker's allowance if they are capable of work, or employment and support allowance if their capability for work is limited by a disability or health condition.

The Government intend to provide additional support to help lone parents moving onto jobseeker's allowance balance their work and family life and we will ensure that all lone parents meet with a New Deal for Lone Parent adviser within the first two weeks of their claim to discuss what extra support they need.

We are also today taking further steps to ensure that lone parents can seek part-time work that fits with family life. We are referring to the Social Security Advisory Committee proposals for new regulations under section 6 of the Jobseekers Act 1995 to allow lone parents with a child aged up to 12 the right to restrict availability for employment to hours that reflect the child's normal term time school hours. The draft regulations will then be submitted to Parliament for approval. Guidance to Jobcentre advisers will ensure that this is implemented in practice.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 27 October 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Byelaws and Consent Regimes

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): I am today announcing action to further the Government's commitment to ensure decisions on local matters are made as close to the people affected by them as possible.

First, following consultation I am proposing to change the rules about how certain byelaws are made, so that councils and their communities will be able to address local issues through byelaws without needing permission from Whitehall. I intend to seek the approval of each House to the necessary regulations under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. I am also proposing that councils should be able to enforce certain byelaws through fixed penalty notices, and I intend to make and lay before the House the necessary regulation to provide for this.

A copy of the summary document and Government response, "Communities in control: real people, real power", has been placed in the Library of the House.

As part of the same concerted drive, I also intend that my Department will publish a consultation on proposals to either repeal or dramatically streamline more than half of the consent regimes my Department is responsible for—relating to, for example, housing and land use, which currently require councils to seek Government approval before acting.

Following the 2006 report "Consent Regimes—Reducing Unnecessary Bureaucracy" which set out the Government's intention to reduce the red tape and improve the local authority consent regime system, Communities and Local Government has undertaken two reviews to ensure the consent regimes it is responsible for are kept to a necessary minimum. The most recent review identified over half which, subject to consultation, could be either repealed or streamlined. The Government will retain powers where it considers it will benefit local government and citizens to retain national oversight.

JUSTICE

Enforcement Restriction Orders

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): On 18 September the Ministry of Justice published the consultation paper entitled: "Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders: setting the parameters". I have today deposited copies of the consultation paper in the Libraries of both Houses, in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and on the internet at; www.justice.gov.uk

This was a formal consultation exercise undertaken by the Ministry of Justice to discuss the areas where secondary legislation will be used to establish the constraints and limits required for the effective operation of the revised Administration Order (AO) and the Enforcement Restriction Order (ERO) schemes. These are contained in chapters 1 and 2 of part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act (TCEA) 2007.

Responses were received from various sectors of the community including the creditor, debt advice, legal and Government sectors as well as individuals, and were generally supportive of the proposals.

However, due to the need for supporting IT changes in the county courts it will not be possible to introduce the reformed AO scheme and the ERO until April 2011, at the earliest. This would result in delay in providing help and support to debtors.

The ERO would only be available to those who have experienced a sudden, unforeseen change in circumstances from which they are likely to recover within six months but it has become clear that this is not fully understood and there is a significant risk that large numbers of debtors might apply for an ERO, without considering the requirement for evidence of recovery in the short-term, in the mistaken belief that it will be available to them.

If debtors apply for an ERO in inappropriate circumstances, this could worsen their position as:

> if awarded, interest will continue to be added to the debt;
>
> if not awarded, they will have wasted time in identifying an appropriate workable solution; and,
>
> place a significant strain on HMCS as these would be priority hearings, which need to be heard on the same day as the application is received.

Service Personnel Deaths (Overseas)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces, the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) and I wish to make the latest in the series of quarterly statements to the House about the inquests of service personnel and others who have died overseas. We cannot express highly enough the regard in which we continue to hold our service personnel who are serving, or who have served, in the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our deepest sympathies lie with the families of those personnel who have lost their lives in these operations. It is a cause of particular sadness that since our last statement a further 47 service personnel have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Today, we are announcing the progress that has been made since the written ministerial statement on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 30WS, with information about the conduct of inquests by the Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 16 October.

The tables which accompany this statement again include information about those cases which involve a board of inquiry or a service inquiry.

Progress with inquests

At the time of the last statement, we reported that up to 6 July, 241 inquests had been held since June 2006: 227 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham.

Since 6 July a further 19 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. This makes a total of 260 inquests held since June 2006.

Since operations commenced in 2001 there have been a total of 284 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including four service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

We remain deeply grateful for the efforts of all of the coroners who are involved in conducting these inquests, and totally committed in our support for the independent coronial system.

Our Departments continue to work closely together, and with the coroners, to review the way in which the system is working and to look for opportunities, prior to the implementation of the coroners' legislation which is currently before Parliament in the Coroners and Justice Bill, to make improvements for the benefit of the bereaved families.

Open inquests

i Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities

There are no outstanding pre-March 31 2007 inquests in the Oxfordshire coroner's district.

ii Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests does not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon district (since 1 April 2007 fatalities have been repatriated via RAF Lyneham). The coroner transfers inquests for service personnel to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible. It is helpful that the district continues to benefit from the experience and expertise of David Masters, who retired as coroner on 31 March but has been appointed as an assistant deputy coroner by his successor, David Ridley.

There are 105 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007 (64 involving deaths in the last six months). Of these, Mr. Ridley has retained 56 inquests, whilst 47 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin, and two inquest transfers are pending. At 16 October, 1 recent fatality had been repatriated but the inquest was yet to be opened. Hearing dates have been set in 13 of these cases.

iii Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain eight inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries.

We shall continue to keep the House informed about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Library of the House which outline the status of all cases and the date of death in each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Prison Estates

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): On 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 569 my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice made a statement on prisons and probation, in which he announced plans to build five new 1,500 place prisons. The Secretary of State for Justice announced the preferred location for the first two sites: one on the site of the former Runwell Secure Psychiatric Hospital in Essex and one at Beam Park West, Dagenham.

I am pleased to announce today that we are starting a fresh search for sites on which to build new 1,500 place prisons. This search will be more open and transparent than previous searches and we will be asking local authorities, landowners and other interested parties to identify potential sites. We will look across the country for sites to serve areas with greatest demand for prison places. The search will be focused on London, the North-West, North Wales, and West Yorkshire. Finding the most appropriate place for a new prison is of paramount importance. They should be located in those areas where there is the greatest need, areas where the greater number of prisoners come from.

This will allow us to keep prisoners closer to their home areas and will help ensure that important family and other links can be maintained, which help prisoner rehabilitation. As part of this search, we will announce our interest in an identified site and will consult with all interested parties.

Crime has fallen by more than a third since 1997, with 70 per cent. more violent and dangerous offenders locked up, and for longer. We have already created 25,000 additional prison places in the last 12 years and we are committed to providing sufficient prison places to hold serious and persistent offenders, who rightly should be behind bars.

These new prisons will allow us to modernise the estate by closing down older, inefficient and worn-out places. They will help protect the public and make communities safer by providing regimes to punish and reform offenders.

Once a prison is established in an area, almost without exception the local community becomes very supportive of it. A prison is a source of secure, well paid employment and a focus for much volunteering. The research evidence which shows that prisons have no adverse effect on house prices or crime rates is then borne out by experience. But proposals for new prisons can at first be controversial, which is why this new site search will be more open and transparent than previous searches, and we will publish a short-list of potential sites.

Once a site is identified, consultation with local MPs, local authorities and residents will be undertaken in order to achieve the most open and transparent process possible. Once consultation has concluded, we will seek to acquire that site with an appropriate planning consent.

Debt Management Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): On 18 September the Ministry of Justice published a consultation paper entitled "Debt

Management Schemes—delivering effective and balanced solutions for debtors and creditors". I have today deposited copies of the consultation paper, impact assessment and annexes in the Libraries of both Houses, in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk.

This consultation focuses on establishing whether there is a need to develop current debt management schemes (DMS).

The following options are currently available to support people with debt problems:

County Court Administration Orders (for those with unsecured debts below £5,000)bankruptcy, Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs), Time Orders (for debts regulated by the Consumer Credit Act) the Debt Relief Order (for those with unsecured debts below £15,000, disposable income below £50 per month and assets of less than £300) and non-court based debt management/repayment plans operated by both the commercial and not-for-profit sectors.

Additionally other initiatives have been introduced to provide further assistance including:

the new practice direction covering pre-action creditor behaviour (developed by the Civil Justice Council) introduced on 6 April, requires all business creditors to provide consumers with both information about how to contact them to assist direct negotiation, details of free advice providers and a requirement to allow time for advice to be given where this is the chosen course;

the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has reached agreement with the credit card and debt collection sectors that those facing payment problems will be offered a minimum 30-day breathing space to make progress in getting their affairs in order once they have engaged with a debt advice agency.

Officials at the Ministry of Justice have worked closely with officials at the Insolvency Service and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills to ensure that the consultation paper addresses the feedback that has been received from various stakeholders following the publication of the consumer White Paper, and from other Government Departments. The paper puts forward a number of options and explains the advantages and disadvantages to debtors, creditors and debt management scheme providers of each of these options. This will enable stakeholders to make a fully informed decision about which option would deliver both a speedy resolution to a broad range of debt problems experienced by a wide range of people and allow creditors to recover their debts wherever possible.

In considering whether action is required, the Government will be guided by the following objectives:

helping people who could, but are struggling to, repay their debts;

ensuring that fees charged by debt management schemes providers are reasonable and consistent;

ending the practice of some creditors adding interest to debts included in a repayment plan;

preserving the best features of the current debt management industry;

ensuring that needs of debtors, creditors and providers are correctly balanced; and

ensuring that debtors are aware of the range of options available to them and are advised on the most appropriate and sustainable solution(s) for their circumstances.

The intention is to ensure that:

Debtors

debtors will receive advice about all of the options available to them;

they will know how much needs to be repaid because creditor interest and charges would be stopped;

will know roughly how long this will take—but this may vary due to changes of circumstances;

the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 allows for the possible composition of debts. The consultation paper asks questions about whether this is needed;

will be protected from enforcement—without permission of the court;

will not be forced to realise assets; and

will not be harassed by creditors.

Creditors

may have their debts paid in full—possibly minus operators' charges;

will not need to chase debts;

will have information presented to them in a common format; and

will be confident that they are receiving the maximum possible monthly instalment.

If the consultation results in the introduction of a code of best practice or the *approved* DMS, it could be possible to introduce these as early as 2010, depending on parliamentary time. This would deliver early support for debtors.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 28 October 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Copyright Strategy

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): My right hon. Friend the First Secretary of State, Lord Mandelson, has made the following statement:

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, together with the Intellectual Property Office, is today "© The Way Ahead: A Strategy for Copyright in the Digital Age".

This report set out the policies which will drive the UK approach to copyright in the digital age, reflecting how the UK is working to deliver the right solutions at a domestic level and to help drive the agenda on copyright issues in Europe and internationally.

The core objective of "© The Way Ahead: A Strategy for Copyright in the Digital Age" is to ensure the copyright system supports creativity and promotes investment and jobs while also ensuring that consumers are able to act with certainty and clarity.

Building on the framework for supporting the creative industries set out in the "Digital Britain Report and Creative Britain", its ambition is to set out a copyright roadmap determining the lessons policy makers should take from the present to help decide where we should go in the future.

This copyright strategy will support fair treatment for creators; secure a viable future for rights holders; allow consumers to benefit from the digital age; and create a simpler system for businesses to operate in.

This copyright strategy highlights three principles that need to be kept in mind in order to create a positive environment for copyright owners, consumers and business.

First, copyright is harmonised at a European level and any action pursued domestically needs to be understood within this context;

> secondly, a pragmatic recognition that intervention from Government will not be the most useful action in all areas requiring attention, with it being more beneficial for business and copyright owners to pursue many solutions; and
>
> finally, recognition that Government have a responsibility to serve the interests of all participants in the copyright framework.

The strategy develops a number of policy announcements in the "Digital Britain Report", as well as encouraging domestic and international actions, which satisfy these three principles. The strategy states that the UK will:

> Enable a system of copyright licensing on an opt-out rather than opt-in basis, as is successfully practised elsewhere in Europe.
>
> Take powers to allow "orphan works" that have no clear owner to be used without fear of criminal liability.
>
> Act to monitor the behaviour of collecting societies.
>
> Encourage creative industries to employ standard contract terms and licences that give creators more control over their work.
>
> Enable business to continue to develop new business models, products and services that better meet customer expectations on utility and price, including making it easier to license copyright works.
>
> Ensure consumers respect copyright by encouraging the development of attractive legitimate services and tackling illicit peer-to-peer file-sharing.
>
> Signal its readiness to consider sympathetically Europe-wide moves to let non-commercial users use copyright works without fear of legal complications.

Inevitably there will be some questions about how this work links in with what we are going to do about tackling unlawful peer-to-peer file-sharing. On unlawful file-sharing I am intending to make clear our intention to go ahead with legislation in this area which will establish a proportionate, but effective, way of reducing significantly the level of online infringement which is causing such damage to our creative industries. The approach of requiring internet service providers to send notifications to subscribers identified by rights holders as unlawfully file-sharing, and collecting data on the number of notifications sent to each subscriber which the rights holder can obtain via a court order, has been debated for some time, as has the imposition of technical measures should that approach not produce the results anticipated.

What I will also make clear, however, is that temporary account suspension could be included in the measures taken, something that we floated as part of a Government statement on 25 August 2009. Additionally I will make it clear that we are not expecting the whole cost to fall on internet service providers, but on the basis of a flat fee approach costs will be shared so that both sides can plan and budget. The full details of what we are intending, and the official response to the consultation that closed on 29 September 2009 will be made clear when the legislation is published next month.

The two policies are complementary. It is right for Government to intervene on unlawful file-sharing to help create the space in which innovative business offerings can emerge. But it is also right that this should be done against the background of a fair deal for all parties. Creators and those who invest in creativity must receive a fair reward—the creative industries are built on that precept—but we also need to move to reinstate the respect that copyright should command from reasonable law-abiding people. Without that respect we—and the creative industries—face a much harder struggle.

Copies of the "Copyright Strategy" will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

ECOFIN (20 October 2009)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 20 October 2009. The following items were discussed:

Preparation for the G20 finance ministers' meeting

Ministers received an update on process going forward to St. Andrews. The Council agreed a terms of reference on climate finance, exit strategies and the framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth which the Swedish presidency will take forward to the G20 meeting as the European contribution.

Preparation for the October European Council

a) Exit strategies

ECOFIN agreed a set of conclusions outlining the principles for design of fiscal exit strategies, reiterating that continuing support for the economy was essential until recovery was established. Ministers also agreed on the need for comprehensive structural reforms to provide the right framework for future sustainable growth and for strengthened national budgetary frameworks.

b) Financing of climate change

Ministers held a discussion on financing aspects of climate change. This will be further discussed by the October European Council.

c) Financial supervision

Ministers took stock of the significant progress made in negotiations on the creation of a new regulatory and supervisory architecture for the European Union. ECOFIN agreed that ongoing national parliamentary procedures must be respected, and concluded that the EU should continue to aim for agreement on the complete supervision package by the end of 2009 in order to have the new system in place as soon as possible.

The Government recognise the benefits of this new system, as set out by the June European Council, for Europe to improve regulatory and supervisory systems for the future and to provide a global lead on regulatory reform. The Government will work to ensure agreement by the end of the year.

European Systemic Risk Board

Ministers then discussed the draft regulation establishing a European systemic risk board (ESRB) and the draft Council decision entrusting the European Central Bank with specific tasks in relation to the ESRB. The UK maintained its Parliamentary scrutiny reserve on the proposals. The presidency concluded that there was broad agreement on the substance of the proposal of the regulation and would take further steps on the Council decision. ECOFIN will return to this in its meeting in December, when Ministers will also address the proposals for the new micro-supervisory structures.

Strengthening EU financial stability arrangements

ECOFIN agreed Council conclusions on the strengthening of EU arrangements to ensure financial stability and provide crisis management in the event of a future financial crisis. ECOFIN will consider this further in its meeting in December.

Taxation: Anti-fraud agreements with third countries

The Council discussed a draft anti-fraud agreement with Liechtenstein and a draft mandate for the Commission to open negotiations with Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland. The Council broadly agreed on the substance while noting political reservations by Austria and Luxembourg. Discussions will continue at working group level before coming back to ECOFIN in December.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Spending Reports

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Barbara Follett): The Government have today published the summary of responses to the second phase of our consultation on local spending reports. The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 ("the Act") places a requirement on the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the production of local spending reports and to consult those likely to be affected before making them. The document has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/about/sustainablecommunitiesact

The aim of local spending reports is to assist local authorities, their partners and the community to promote the sustainability of local communities by providing more information about the public money that is spent in their area.

Considerable interest was shown by respondents in the potential that the mapping of local public spending offers in support of partnership working, the delivery of efficient and high quality local services and local transparency and accountability. We recognise the clear expectation of the majority of respondents that the local spending reports should, over time, include more information, from a wider range of public bodies. However, the responses to the consultation which dealt with the purpose and content of future reports did not provide a great deal of information on the likely costs and benefits of developing the reports and the precise way in which they could be used.

The Government remain committed to the provision of information on local spending although we must ensure this is useful, to local authorities, their partners and the community they serve and that the cost of producing this is justified by its benefit.

We, therefore, will be considering the findings of this phase of the consultation in more detail together with evidence from the Total Place initiative, Sir Tim Berners-Lee's work on how Government can use the internet to make non-personal public data as widely available as possible, and the responses to the Strengthening local democracy consultation. Once this is completed we will consult on the proposals that arise from the exercise, as required by section 6(10) of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. We will report back to the House before the end of December 2009 on the next stages in developing local spending reports.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Sale of Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Land

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): Today my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, Lord Hunt, made the following ministerial statement:

I would like to inform the House that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is close to concluding its sale process for the disposal of land adjacent to Sellafield in Cumbria.

I hope to be able to announce the successful bidder—who intends to develop the site for new nuclear power generation—shortly.

Proceeds from the sale of this site will be used by the NDA to offset the cost of decommissioning and to further its core mission. A successful outcome of the sale process will further demonstrate that major energy companies are gearing up for significant investment in low carbon energy in the UK.

I will place details of the outcome of this sale process, including the sum raised and the identity of the bidder in the Libraries of both Houses.

Any new nuclear power station development will be subject to the regulatory and other consenting processes.

The land to be sold has been nominated into the Government's strategic siting assessment process which assesses sites for their suitability for new nuclear power stations. The Government will be consulting on their assessment of the sites that are potentially suitable for new nuclear power stations as part of their consultation on the draft "National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation" which will be published this autumn.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

St. Helena

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I announced on 16 March, *Official Report*, column 40WS, a public consultation on options for access to the island. The consultation has now been completed. A report summarising the responses that were received is now available on the Department for International Development website: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/.

We will consider carefully the views submitted in the consultation, taking into account the current economic conditions.

JUSTICE

Crown Court Means-Testing

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> On 14 July 2009, the Government announced the beginning of a consultation exercise on draft regulations to support the introduction of means-testing in the Crown Court in January 2010. On 8 June 2009, the Government had announced their intention to extend means-testing to defendants and appellants appearing in the Crown Court.
>
> The consultation exercise on the draft regulations concluded on 6 October 2009, and a Response to Consultation on the draft Regulations and Supplementary Impact Assessment on Crown Court means-testing is today being published by the Ministry of Justice. I am also taking the opportunity today to lay the draft regulations before Parliament. Those that are subject to affirmative resolution will be debated in due course.
>
> Copies of the Response to Consultation and Supplementary Impact Assessment have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Correction to Written Answer

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): I regret to inform the House that some of the figures in the answer given to Parliamentary Question 276453 on 2 June, *Official Report*, column 298W, to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) about how much (a) the Department and (b) its agencies spent on car hire in each year since 2001 were incorrect.

When preparing an answer to a current question it has come to light that there are some discrepancies with the data submitted for the previous answer given due to two errors in the transposition of data. The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) has also provided data for the last three financial years, whereas none was given by them for the previous question. They advise that figures are now available following improvements in record keeping and their undertaking of a contract to maintain vehicles on behalf of the Olympic development authority has resulted in an increase in car hire.

The figures have been checked and the correct answer is below.

£

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Department for Transport (Central)	0	156,918	188,144	208,126	353,758	220,352	219,380
Executive Agencies	1,045,417	1,806,204	2,002,484	1,966,637	2,385,202	2,467,707	2,756,202

It is not possible to provide costs for the Department for Transport or for the Driving Standards Agency in 2002-03 because the information is not available in a comparable format.

Improving Access to Taxis

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Department for Transport has today published the results from a consultation paper which explored ways of improving access to taxis by disabled people. The analysis summarises the responses to the consultation and has informed the way in which the Department will take this work forward.

The purpose of publishing the results of the consultation is to provide transparency to the Department's policy and to ensure that it is easily understood. We acknowledge and welcome the input provided by the respondents to the consultation.

The Department will take the opportunity presented by the passage of the Equality Bill to ensure there are regulation making provisions to allow duties to be imposed on drivers of taxis and private hire vehicles designated as accessible by the local authority, to assist wheelchair passengers and carry them in safety and comfort. This largely replicates the duties contained in what was section 36 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, which has been carried across into the Equality Bill.

The Department will also be undertaking demonstration schemes in three licensing authority areas, to research the needs of disabled people when using taxis and private hire vehicles, how to tailor the fleet to demand and use patterns and how driver training can assist disabled passengers. The demonstration schemes will provide the basis on which the Department will be able to issue comprehensive guidance to licensing authorities to assist them with improving the availability of taxis and private hire vehicles for disabled passengers.

The Department is also considering the wider legislative framework governing taxis and private hire vehicles to see whether there are any changes which could be made with the objective of enhancing provision for disabled people.

The document summarising consultation responses is available on the Department's website. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

Driving Disqualifications (UK and the Republic of Ireland)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The United Kingdom has taken the formal legal steps, along with the Republic of Ireland Administration, to mutually recognise driving disqualifications issued to either UK or Irish drivers. This will mean that a UK driving-licence holder disqualified for an offence in Ireland will no longer escape that punishment when they return home. Likewise, a disqualification earned by an Irish driver while in the UK will have their disqualification enforced on their return to Ireland.

The UK has one of the best road safety records in the world and this co-operation between the administrations in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will improve it further.

The UK and Ireland are the first to apply the terms of the 1998 European Convention on driving disqualifications. Following completion of the legal requirements to adopt the 1998 European Convention on driving disqualifications, there now follows a 90 day period after which the law will come into force. This will be on a date early in February 2010, to be notified by the European authorities on receipt of our respective national declarations.

Regulations to bring the agreement into law in Great Britain, The Mutual Recognition of Driving Disqualifications (Great Britain and Ireland) Regulations 2008 (SI.2008/3010), were laid before the House on 25 November 2008.

WALES

Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill (Framework Powers)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to inform the House that the explanatory memorandum explaining the Government's proposal for a framework power in the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill are available in the Vote Office, Library and the Printed Paper Office, and on the Wales Office website (www.walesoffice.gov.uk).

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 29 October 2009

TREASURY

Corporate Taxation

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): As part of the update provided by Budget 2009 on the Government's tax simplification reviews, the Government committed to consult on further simplification of the associated company rules.

I am today publishing a consultation document to fulfil that commitment. The consultation seeks stakeholders' views on a proposal to reform the associated company rules as they apply to the small companies' rate of corporation tax. The proposed reform aims to benefit businesses by providing a more targeted test to establish those companies whose profits should be considered collectively in establishing the rate of corporation tax that applies to them. Further details can be found in the consultation document, copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on HM Treasury's website.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Global Entrepreneurship Week

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): My noble Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business, Lord Davies of Abersoch, has today made the following statement:

This year, *GEW* runs from 16-22 November. This is the UK's second *GEW* an initiative inspired by BIS and co-founded with the Kauffman Foundation in the USA. There will be more than 80 countries taking part in this years entertaining and stimulating week.

Highlighting the importance of entrepreneurship is crucial for the future aspirations of millions of young people and the economic future of the UK. Entrepreneurs innovate, create jobs, increase economic growth and therefore help ensure a nation's competitiveness. They spot opportunities, take risks, have ideas and make them happen.

GEW will help budding British entrepreneurs: by accessing international networks they will be able to brainstorm new ideas, enter new markets and find new resources. It will encourage the UK's young people to become entrepreneurs, through interactive events that engage those who would not otherwise have considered enterprise. And by connecting British youth with young people abroad, it should increase the level of cultural understanding in the UK.

Its not just about entrepreneurs and business start ups; the week will also encourage organisations across the globe to celebrate and recognise the wealth of talent that is evident in every business and to encourage their employees to start thinking about ideas that have a very clear and tangible business benefit.

Last year, *GEW* was an enormous success and generated community interest in entrepreneurship; 644,000 people attended the 6,363 events. The single largest activity was the Make Your Mark Challenge which involved 56,000 students from schools and colleges. Around the world there were at least 25,000 events across 77 countries.

This year there are 82 countries involved as *GEW* gains momentum globally. We hope to make the week a success and inspire people across the world.

DEFENCE

Implementation of the Armed Forces Act 2006

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): I am pleased to announce that implementation of the Armed Forces Act 2006 will be completed and the Act will come into force on 31 October. The legislation establishes for the first time a single system of service law across the armed forces. It preserves the important principle of a separate service justice system, reflecting the particular circumstances of the armed forces, and keeps the commanding officer at the heart of service discipline. It also promotes greater fairness, which in turn supports operational effectiveness.

The new single, harmonised and modernised system of service law will apply to the personnel of all three services at all times, wherever in the world they are serving. It will also apply to some civilians, but only overseas and in specified circumstances.

When the new legislation comes into force, a number of Acts of Parliament will be repealed, including the current Service Discipline Acts (the Army Act 1955, the Air Force Act 1955 and the Naval Discipline Act 1957).

The Armed Forces Act 2006 was the largest and arguably the most significant piece of legislation the Ministry of Defence has ever put before Parliament. Its implementation has been a lengthy and complex process, but the new single system of service law that it has established will serve the armed forces well for many years to come.

Guidance on the new service justice system is provided in the "Manual of Service Law", which is now available on the Armed Forces Act 2006 website at the following link: http://www.mod.uk. I will also arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

HEALTH

Health and Criminal Justice Programme

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): On 30 April, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice announced the Government's response to my right hon. and noble Friend Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. The Government accepted the direction of travel set out by Lord Bradley, and committed to developing a national delivery plan incorporating a full response to the report's recommendations.

The Government stated that they would report to Parliament on the progress achieved by the end of October 2009.

The Government are pleased to report that since the publication of Lord Bradley's review, a cross-departmental health and criminal justice national programme board, chaired by David Behan (Director General for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships in the Department of Health), has been established to consider Lord Bradley's recommendations in detail and to develop a national delivery plan. 'Improving Health, Supporting Justice'—the delivery plan of the health and criminal justice programme board—will be published in November and we will make a further written ministerial statement about this on the day of publication.

The Government also accepted Lord Bradley's recommendation for a National Advisory Group to be established to help ensure wider involvement from interested organisations. I am pleased to announce today that Keith Pearson who is currently chair of NHS East of England, has been appointed as the chair of the National Advisory Group.

Health and Adult Social Care Providers (Registration)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): Today I am publishing a consultation response, which is the latest stage in the development of the new system we are introducing for the regulation of health and adult social care.

The publication, "Response to consultation on the draft regulations for the framework for the registration of health and adult social care providers" sets out our response to our previous consultation on the draft regulations that will govern the new registration system[1]. It describes how the wording of the draft regulations we have today laid before Parliament has changed since the consultation process. It also details changes in the policy for a further set of regulations, which we intend to lay later this autumn.

The draft regulations, to be made under the powers provided for in the Health and Social Care Act 2008, set out the detail of the new registration framework to be operated by the Care Quality Commission. This, subject to approval by Parliament, will be introduced for the NHS in April 2010 and for private and voluntary health care and adult social care from October 2010.

Earlier this year, Parliament approved regulations made under these powers to regulate NHS providers against a requirement about cleanliness and infection control. Since 1 April this year, NHS providers have been required to register with the Care Quality Commission and comply with the requirement on cleanliness and infection control.

These draft regulations laid today set out who needs to register with the Care Quality Commission (scope of registration) and what they need to do to register and remain registered (registration requirements).

The new approach will mean that patients and people using services will have the same level of assurance of the quality and safety of their care and treatment, whether it is being provided by the NHS, local government, private or third sectors

The registration requirements are designed to address the concerns of people using health and adult social care services, covering the topics on which they want assurance. They provide clarity about the essential levels of safety and quality all providers must deliver for people who use their services, without being prescriptive about how providers run their services.

The registration system will operate alongside a wider quality improvement framework that encourages not just good care, but excellent care. The Commission will have a role in contributing to ongoing quality improvement as part of the wider quality framework, particularly through its publication of comparable information in periodic reviews, and its power to conduct special reviews into areas of particular interest.

This publication will be of interest to anyone providing or working in health and adult social care, and to patients and people using services, who are interested in how the reforms are going to improve these services.

Today's publication has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Note:

[1] Response to consultation on the framework for the registration of health and adult social care providers and consultation on draft regulations.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Returns to Zimbabwe

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am announcing today our intention to make changes over time to our returns policy to Zimbabwe, recognising the different categories of people currently living in the UK. This reflects developments in Zimbabwe following the formation of the inclusive Government led by Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

As Prime Minister Tsvangirai has set out, including during his visit to the UK in June, there have been some positive changes in the situation in Zimbabwe over the past six months. While a great deal remains to be done to institute the political and other reforms set out in the global political agreement, the indiscriminate violence which marred the elections of 2008 has abated. And the formation of the inclusive Government has led to improvements in the economy, schools and the availability of basic commodities. In response to this changed situation some Zimbabweans in the UK are considering returning home to help rebuild their country. I consider we should be doing more to help them.

On 1 February we announced enhancements to the assisted voluntary return (AVR) package for Zimbabweans. AVR packages are available for individuals of all nationalities who are within the asylum system. The standard package provides support to help them reintegrate into their home country, including £4,000 for vocational training, assistance in setting up a business and a flight home. Since February the package for Zimbabweans has been supplemented with an extra £2,000 of reintegration assistance. This includes an additional £500 cash on departure, an extra £1,000 "in kind" assistance for business set up, a £500 basic subsistence package and cholera prevention kits.

We are today changing the way we deliver our supplementary package for Zimbabweans such that the total value remains the same but, instead of providing the assistance "in kind", cash payments will now be phased in over a six-month period through the IOM office in Harare. Making cash available to those who go home will support economic reform in Zimbabwe — enabling people to return voluntarily and use their skills to support change and help rebuild Zimbabwe with capital behind them. The scheme will also be extended until 31 December and will be reviewed at that point.

Alongside these changes to our voluntary returns package we have also considered carefully our position on enforced returns to Zimbabwe. We have kept this issue under review since the Home Office first deferred enforced returns to Zimbabwe in September 2006 and the courts have found that not all Zimbabweans are in need of international protection. The UK Border Agency will therefore be starting work over the autumn on a process aimed at normalising our returns policy to Zimbabwe, moving towards resuming enforced returns progressively as and when the political situation develops.

The agency takes its obligations under the 1951 refugee convention seriously. We will continue to consider each case on its individual merits and where someone needs protection it will be granted. However, we have always expected those found not to be in need of protection to return home. We prefer these individuals to return voluntarily and the enhancements to the AVR scheme will support this, but where they choose not to do so we are bound to take steps, over time, to enforce the law.

Justice and Home Affairs (Post-Council Statement)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Luxembourg on 23 October 2009. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach, the Scottish Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing, and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The Council began in Mixed Committee with non-EU Schengen states, receiving an update from the presidency on arrangements for the first milestone test for the second generation Schengen information system (SIS II). The UK stressed that the test should take place by the end of this year in line with the June Council conclusions. The UK also stated that it was important to distinguish between a delayed and a failed test and that it would not accept a decision on the future of SIS II unless a test had failed.

Next, the presidency presented an update on the current state of play on the implementation of the regulation establishing the Visa Information System (VIS), where technical problems would delay the launch. The UK does not participate in that regulation.

Following Mixed Committee, the presidency invited the Commission to provide a summary of the fifth annual visa reciprocity report. While the UK does not participate in the EU visa regime, we do maintain an interest in all visa issues, notably for full reciprocity with third country nationals. The Council then exchanged views on the Canadian decision to impose visas on Czech nationals. The UK believes the Commission should continue to engage with the Canadians to broker a solution.

The Council reached agreement on the draft framework decision on accreditation of forensic laboratory activities, which aims to increase mutual trust in DNA and fingerprint data exchanged between member states by requiring a minimum standard of accreditation. The presidency hoped that the framework decision would be formally adopted at the November JHA Council.

The Council then reached a general approach on the proposal for a Council decision to establish the European crime prevention network. This instrument will strengthen the network's ability to identify, exchange and disseminate crime prevention information and actions targeted at traditional or volume crime. Following receipt of the European Parliament's opinion on the proposal, the decision will come back to the Council on the 30 November for formal adoption.

Under any other business the Commission presented its review of visa facilitation in the western Balkans. The UK does not participate in the part of the Schengen acquis that covers visa liberalisation, and will not be lifting visit visa requirements for western Balkan states when the Schengen zone liberalises its own requirements. The UK remains a strong supporter of the EU enlargement process and the aspirations of west Balkan states for eventual EU membership.

Over lunch Home Affairs Ministers discussed proposals for the new European Asylum Office. There was a clear desire to move quickly. The UK has not yet decided which country to support to host this office.

In the afternoon, Justice Ministers adopted a Council resolution on a "roadmap" for strengthening procedural rights of suspected or accused persons in criminal proceedings. The UK supported this pragmatic approach and the focus on practical measures as well as legislation. Justice Ministers also reached a general approach on a draft framework decision and an accompanying draft resolution on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings. The UK congratulated the presidency on reaching agreement on this measure which will make a real difference to the lives of citizens.

The presidency updated Justice Ministers on the progress that has been made at official level on the proposed framework decision on transfer of proceedings in criminal matters. The UK stated that its support of this measure would depend on amendments being made to the proposal, particularly provisions relating to jurisdiction.

The presidency provided an update on negotiations and sought views with the aim of resolving outstanding issues on the framework decision on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting victims. The Commission stressed the importance of going further than the Council of Europe convention and welcomed the global approach to combating trafficking. It appealed, however, for higher levels of penalties, and for greater assistance for victims. The UK supported the presidency compromise and, despite the UK having very limited extraterritorial jurisdiction, said that it had taken the decision to extend jurisdiction to cover UK nationals who commit trafficking offences abroad given the seriousness of the offences involved. The presidency welcomed the broad support for the text and concluded that formal agreement would be reached in November.

Under any other business, the Commission presented its proposal on succession and wills, stating that its ambition was to make the lives of citizens easier. The presidency noted that there would be plenty of opportunity for discussion in the future.

JUSTICE

Probation Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The indicative budget for 2010-11, communicated to probation chiefs in February 2009 was £844 million, compared with a budget of £894 million in 2009-10. This would have been a 5.6 per cent. reduction year-on-year.

In the light of strong representations I have received from the probation service and from the probation unions, and my particular concern about employment prospects for recently qualified probation officers, I can announce today that the confirmed 2010-11 allocation will be £870 million, £26 million more than the original indicative budget. This equates to a reduction of 2.68 per cent. year-on-year. This is consistent with the savings expected across the public service.

In this economic climate the probation service along with all public services has to achieve efficiency savings. Probation boards and trusts have been required to review their structures, overheads, support services and efficiency levels. This funding will enable probation boards/trusts to review their staffing plans for 2010-11 which will benefit both the September 2009 graduates and the 305 trainee probation officers due to graduate in September 2010.

The additional funding will be targeted to increase confidence in community penalties and divert low risk offenders from short term custody. Directors of offender management will be required to negotiate specific service improvements with individual boards/trusts which will be incorporated in SLAs contracts for 2010-11 to ensure that this additional funding is targeted on front line delivery. Detailed work will be undertaken by directors of offender management with areas/trusts to agree additional service delivery requirements and finalise individual allocations.

The total case load of offenders being supervised by the probation service rose by 53 per cent. between 31 December 1997 and 31 December 2008 (from 159,200 to 243,400). This compares to an overall rise in the probation service budget of 70 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2007.

The total offender case load has remained stable in recent years. At 31 December 2007 there were 242,700 offenders being supervised, compared to 243,400 at 31 December 2008 and 244,300 at 31 March 2009.

The overriding priority for the probation service is public protection which will not be put at risk. Probation areas are looking to make any required savings through back office and management rationalisation and improvements in efficiency and processes, protecting front line delivery.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is responsible for all aspects of electoral administration in Northern Ireland, including the conduct of all elections and referendums, as well as electoral registration. Section 14 of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962—as amended by Section 9 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006—provides that the Chief Electoral Officer must submit an annual report to the Secretary of State. The annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland for the year 2008-09 has been laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Transport for London

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> The ex-Metronet investment programme covers the upgrade, maintenance and renewal of infrastructure on the Bakerloo, Central, Victoria, Waterloo and City and the sub-surface (Metropolitan, Circle, District, Hammersmith and City) lines. It will deliver nearly 30 per cent. more capacity across the network, improving journey times and reliability.
>
> Following the administration of Metronet in July 2007, its assets and obligations were transferred to Transport for London in May 2008 as an interim measure. The former Mayor and Secretary of State for Transport tasked a Joint Steering Committee consisting of Transport for London (TfL) including London Underground Ltd (LUL), the Department for Transport and HM Treasury with considering a range of options for the permanent structure of the Metronet contracts, with the objective of providing a stable and safe operational framework and delivering the modernisation, upgrade and maintenance of the tube infrastructure at an affordable price that offered value for money for the taxpayer.
>
> The Mayor and I have accepted the committee's recommendations that the contracts inherited from Metronet should remain under the direct management of LUL as the best value option under the present circumstances, with the majority of upgrades already underway. Some of these contracts have since been renegotiated to secure more favourable terms for LUL. Future contracts will be procured directly by LUL, including robust performance incentives and transferring risk where appropriate. LUL will remain responsible for all asset management decisions, but there will continue to be substantial private sector involvement through the contracts managed by LUL. A decision on the most appropriate contracting arrangement for the Bakerloo line upgrade (which has not yet started) will be taken nearer the time, reflecting lessons learnt from the earlier upgrades.
>
> LUL is investing in its management and organisational capacity and capability in order to meet this new challenge. Organisational restructuring within LUL has also created a clearer separation of client and delivery functions, with a defined sponsor for each project.
>
> Underpinning these new arrangements and responding to the increased size of TfL's investment programme are new scrutiny measures at Transport for London. The Mayor will establish an independent advisory panel with remit extending across the entirety of the TfL investment programme, including all maintenance, renewal, upgrades and major projects across the modes, but not operations.
>
> Members of the new panel will be appointed by the Mayor from a shortlist agreed with me. The Mayor and I will also agree the panel's terms of reference. The panel will report to the TfL board and the Mayor as its chair. The members of the panel will have experience in a range of disciplines including engineering, finance and project management, ensuring that as a whole the panel will be able to offer expert advice, opinion and challenge on all aspects of TfL's investment programme, including the ex-Metronet works.
>
> The panel will be able to review all aspects of project delivery including cost and programme deliverability. It will also review delivery of the investment programme at a portfolio level, including management and organisational capability and the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of delivery of the investment programme. The panel will report its findings directly to the TfL board, who will also receive a TfL management response setting out how the issues raised have been or will be dealt with. The panel will commission other reports as it or the TfL board consider appropriate. It will publish an annual report making overall conclusions on the

delivery of the investment programme. Copies of all reports will be provided to me, in view of Government's significant contribution to the investment programme through the GLA transport grant which accounts for just under 40 per cent. of TfL's total income.

These new arrangements build on the work of LUL during the interim period and will offer the stability and certainty LUL need to deliver the investment programme inherited from Metronet and with it the improvements so critical to growth and prosperity in London.

These arrangements are in accordance with the existing framework of devolution of powers to the Mayor, who now bears full responsibility for delivery of the upgrade, maintenance and renewal work previously the responsibility of Metronet.

Tube lines will remain responsible for the upgrade, maintenance and renewal of infrastructure on the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines under its PPP, with independent scrutiny provided by the PPP arbiter.

Local Services (Operation by Licensed Hire Cars) Regulations 2009

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Secretary of State for Transport has today laid regulations under the Local Transport Act 2008 which will allow the owners of private hire vehicles (PHVs) to use their vehicles to provide local bus services.

The regulations will come into force on 27 November 2009.

Section 53 of the 2008 Act allows the holder of a PHV licence to acquire a special public service vehicle (PSV) licence from the traffic commissioner and to register a local bus service using a licensed PHV.

It is likely that this new opportunity will be of particular benefit to those in rural areas where it might not be cost-effective for bus operators to run services using larger buses.

The regulations apply in England, (outside London), Wales and Scotland. Transport for London are responsible for making any regulations governing PHV-buses in London. The ability to run bus services has been available to the owners of licensed taxis since 1986.

A summary of the responses received to the consultation exercise on the draft regulations, which was launched on 17 December 2008, has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Discretionary Social Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): The Secretary of State will be making changes to the discretionary Social Fund, with effect from 30 October 2009.

The change introduces the requirement for most customers to be interviewed at a local Jobcentre Plus office when they make a third or subsequent application for a crisis loan to cover living expenses.

During such an interview customers will be provided with a leaflet that contains details of local and national organisations that can provide money management advice. The leaflet has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament and copies are also available in the Vote office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 2 November 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Olympic Safety and Security

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): As part of our commitment to ensure the safety and security of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games a contract has been signed between Airwave Solutions Ltd and the National Policing Improvement Agency for the enhancement of the Airwave radio service, which provides core radio communications for police, fire and ambulance services.

This £39 million investment will fund an increase in the capability of the Airwave system in time for the 2012 Games which will mean it can cater for thousands more users from all of the emergency services. This will benefit all 2012 host venue police forces, fire and ambulance services.

This investment will provide capacity to support the additional policing requirements at all Olympic venues, coverage within Olympic venues, capability to support public order operational activities involving several thousand officers within confined geographical locations, and capability to address the risk of a spontaneous major incident while continuing to support business as usual and Olympics requirements.

UK Border Agency Guidance (Welfare of Children)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): Together with the Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, Baroness Delyth Morgan, I have today issued statutory guidance to the UK Border Agency under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009.

Section 55 comes into force today. It places a duty on the Secretary of State to make arrangements for ensuring that immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. A similar duty is placed on the Director of Border Revenue in respect of the director's functions. Subsections 55(3) and (5) require any person exercising any of these functions to have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State for this purpose.

Section 55 is intended to have the same effect as section 11 of the Children Act 2004 which places a similar duty on a range of key public bodies. This guidance is an important step in the process of bringing the UK Border Agency within the family of agencies who, together, have statutory responsibilities to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their duties. The guidance is supported by a programme of reform to improve the way in which children are treated in the immigration system, led by the agency's senior management, and which includes an extensive training programme for UK Border Agency staff. The UK Border Agency will be held to account by its new, independent Chief Inspector who will inspect and challenge us on our progress.

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Openness of Family Courts - Family Courts Information Pilot

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor announced on 16 December 2008 a package of measures to improve the openness of family courts, and on 27 April 2009 he made a written statement to the House about the implementation of new court rules concerning media attendance at proceedings and disclosure provisions, *Official Report*, column 38WS.

I am now able to confirm that the next phase of the programme has been implemented today—the family courts information pilot. This pilot will test the provision of written judgments in more cases than now, and place anonymised judgments and written reasons in the public domain via the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) website. The pilot will run from today in the magistrates courts in Leeds and in the magistrates court and county court in Cardiff, and it will run from the beginning of January at the magistrates court and county court in Wolverhampton.

The provision of the judgments and written reasons is being piloted in order that we can assess the benefits to parties to proceedings and the wider public, as well as the resource impacts on court service staff and the judiciary. The pilot is expected to run for 12 months, and evidence from the pilot will be evaluated to inform a decision on whether the arrangements should be implemented nationally.

The following types of cases fall within the scope of the pilot:

Cases where an interim care/supervision order or a final order has been made at a hearing in either:

a) the family proceedings court (magistrates or DJ (MCs));
b) county courts (circuit or district judges or recorders); or
c) the High Court

Cases that fall under at least one of the following categories:

a) Either parent is given leave permanently to remove a child from the UK.

b) The final order prohibits direct contact between a child and either or both parents.

c) A final order is made in a Children Act public law case, including where contact continues.

d) The final order has depended on contested issues of religion, culture or ethnicity.

e) The court has had to decide between medical or other expert witnesses where there were significant differences of opinion.

f) The court has had to decide significant human rights issues.

g) The interim care/supervision order was contested.

There will be other types of case in which publication of the judgment will be encouraged. The type of cases include:

a) Contested cases where the facts, outcomes or solutions of the case would, in the discretion of the judge, be worthy of reporting publicly. So, for example, contested residence or disputed contact issues where the outcome is unusual (e.g. father has residence etc.).

b) Contested adoption applications, applications to make and revoke placement orders; cases involving dispensation with consent and contact.

c) Emergency protection orders.

Annual Report of the Public Guardian Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Public Guardian Board has provided the Lord Chancellor with a copy of its annual report on the Public Guardian for 2009. A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 3 November 2009

TREASURY

Tax Information Exchange (The Bahamas)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A

Tax information exchange agreement (TIEA) was signed with the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in Nassau on 29 October 2009.

The text of the TIEA has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website: www.hmrc.gov.uk. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) was held on 26-27 October in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

The full text of conclusions adopted, including 'A' points, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/110776.pdf

Preparation of the 29-30 October European Council

The October European Council agenda covered economic and financial issues, climate change and institutional issues.

On economic and financial issues, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary strongly supported the need for the European Council to deliver a message on jobs and growth.

On climate change my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary noted that, with Copenhagen only 40 days away, we needed to agree a strong EU position to maintain the international momentum in negotiations. In particular, we needed to give a credible range of figures on global public finance.

On institutional issues, the presidency and the Czech Republic briefed Ministers on the latest developments concerning the Lisbon Treaty. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary noted that we were broadly content with the substance of the presidency's Lisbon Treaty implementation report, but he stressed two points:

> first, that Governments needed time to consult their national Parliaments on some of the decisions which would need to be taken to implement the Lisbon Treaty;
>
> secondly, that it must be clear, for the avoidance of doubt, that the UK and Ireland's Justice and Home Affairs opt-in protocol would apply both to old third pillar measures being re-presented as first pillar measures, and to the decision on the establishment of the Committee on internal security (COSI).

Ministers also broadly agreed guid[illegible]r the European External Action Service (EAS) for approval at the European Council, but noted that full details of the EAS would be provided by the High Representative for consultation once the treaty had entered into force.

Baltic Sea Strategy

Ministers adopted conclusions endorsing an EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region, which the Government support.

AOB: Climate change

The presidency debriefed Ministers on the use of EU demarches to lobby 115 countries on climate change ahead of the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen. The issue would also be discussed at EU summits with third countries, including those with the US, China and India, in the run-up to Copenhagen. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary supported these efforts, and highlighted the publication in the UK of the "four degree" map, which looks at the implications across the board of a four degree temperature rise. It showed that climate change was a foreign policy issue with serious implications, including for security.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The full text of all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/110805.pdf

Iran

High representative Solana briefed Ministers on latest developments on the nuclear issue. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, with support from several member states, said that the EU needed to be ready to take action. He also gave an update on the detention and trial of a local member of British Embassy staff.

Western Balkans

The presidency debriefed Ministers on the joint EU-US initiative to make progress on blocked reform priorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Government fully support this initiative.

Afghanistan/Pakistan

The presidency introduced an action plan for enhancing EU engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which all Ministers welcomed. The Commission welcomed President Karzai's agreement to the second round of elections, which has since been cancelled. It hoped that the EU election observation mission (EOM) would have at least 100 observers and 150 support staff, but would welcome support locally.

The presidency and High Representative Solana both stressed the importance of getting the EUPOL police training mission up to full strength. The presidency challenged member states to increase their contribution before the next Council.

I underscored the importance of a unified EU and broader international effort, going well beyond military engagement alone. The new EU strategy was robust but it needed firm action and resources behind it. I welcomed the Commission's decision to organise the EOM for the second round; underscored the importance of a strong EU presence and offered UK support; and announced that the UK would deploy four more policemen to

EUPOL from January 2010. I also offered the UK's support to Spain in its preparations for the next EU-Pakistan summit in 2010.

Ministers adopted conclusions that welcomed the decision of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to hold a second round in the presidential elections; committed to redeploying the EOM to observe the second round; expressed concern about the security situation in Pakistan, while supporting the Government in their fight against terrorism; set out the main aspects of the EU action plan; and called for implementation of the plan without delay.

Middle East Peace Process

The presidency and High Representative Solana introduced a discussion of the MEPP which highlighted the importance of launching negotiations between the parties and the need for the EU to remain focused on its contribution to implementation of a future peace agreement.

Sri Lanka

The presidency and Commission expressed concern over the serious humanitarian situation. Member states shared this concern. I noted that while there had been some progress with increased numbers leaving the camps recently this needed to be sustained. Member states also expressed concern about the human rights situation in general, including freedom of the media.

The conclusions reflected these concerns and called on the Government of Sri Lanka to allow internally displaced persons to return to their homes as soon as possible and to allow improved access for humanitarian agencies.

AOB: Moldova

The presidency reported on the 15-16 October troika meeting with Moldova. Several member states supported a package of EU measures to the new Moldovan Government:

> financial assistance, pushing ahead with a dialogue on visas, moving ahead with negotiations on a deeper association agreement and a deep free trade deal. The Commission said that it was looking at macro-financial assistance.

The presidency concluded by welcoming these ideas. The Government support an ambitious programme of EU engagement and assistance with the new Government.

AOB: Somalia

This item was dropped from the agenda.

AOB: Freedom of Religion

Italy called for the EU to take a more consistent and active role in protecting religious freedom, and requested conclusions at the November GAERC. The presidency undertook to consider the request and revert.

EU-Indonesia

In the margins of the Council my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary signed an EU partnership and co-operation agreement with Indonesia.

"A" Points

The Council adopted conclusions or decisions, without discussion, on:

> approval for signing the EU-Syria association agreement;
>
> Uzbekistan, focused on human rights, but lifting the remaining EU sanctions (an arms embargo);
>
> Guinea: imposing an arms embargo and travel ban on regime members in Conakry;
>
> Great Lakes: focusing on humanitarian situation in the East;
>
> Sahel: setting the EU's intention to develop a new strategy;
>
> Yemen: adopting an EU action plan;
>
> Human rights dialogue with Indonesia.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Migration (Bulgarian and Romanian Workers)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today confirming that the restrictions on working in the United Kingdom currently applied to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals will continue until the end of 2011.

I announced on 18 December 2008 that these restrictions would remain in place subject to a review of the position by the end of 2009. I have re-examined the case for continuing those restrictions. The Government remain committed to the principle of free movement of workers within the European Union and acknowledge the benefits that intra-EU migration brings to the UK both as an exporter of British workers to other member states and as a result of the role of migration from other member states in meeting labour shortages in important sectors of the UK's economy.

However, the Government have chosen a gradual approach to Bulgarian and Romanian workers' access to the UK's labour market. Given the current labour market situation, it is important that we continue to give weight to the need to protect the interests of the resident workforce. In March of this year, we accordingly tightened resident labour market testing requirements for non-EEA workers seeking admission under tier 2, and the entry criteria for those coming under tier 1, of the points-based system. I have concluded that, in the light of these considerations, the current restrictions applied to Bulgarian and Romanian workers should continue.

The annual quota for the seasonal agricultural workers scheme (SAWS) will remain at 21,250 places for 2010 and 2011 and the annual quota for the sectors-based scheme (SBS) for the food processing sector will remain at an annual level of 3,500 places for 2010 and 2011. I will refer the question of the quota level for the SAWS to the Migration Advisory Committee if evidence emerges to suggest that it is inappropriate.

The current restrictions may be extended for a further two years beyond the end of 2011 on the basis of serious labour market disturbance. Any decision to extend the restrictions will be informed by a further evidence-based review of the position.

JUSTICE

Northern Ireland Court Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Northern Ireland court service main estimate for 2009-10 includes £64.5 million in respect of legal aid, intended to enable the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (NILSC) to discharge legal costs and meet its administration costs during 2009-10. Expenditure on legal aid in 2009-10 is forecast to significantly exceed existing provision because the

NILSC is dealing with a high volume of very high-cost criminal cases and a higher level of civil and criminal business.

Accordingly, Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £20,000,000 will be sought in a winter supplementary estimate for the Northern Ireland court service. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £20,000,000 is being met by a repayable cash advance from the contingencies fund. The additional resources will enable the NILSC to discharge its statutory obligation to meet bills within the provision available to it.

Arrangements have been put in place to ensure that very high-cost cases are paid in a timely manner. There is a programme of reform aimed at reducing the cost of criminal legal aid and delivering reform to civil legal aid which will control cost and target funding on priority cases.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Correction to Oral Answer

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): During Department for Work and Pensions oral questions on Monday 19 October, in response to a supplementary from the hon. Member for Blackpool, North and Fleetwood (Mrs. Humble) I said:

> "My hon. Friend is right, and we must ensure that we also help young people who have different disabilities and need additional help with different ways into work. She may also be interested to know that the proportion of disabled people in work has increased by about seven per cent., to more than 50 per cent., in the past eight years, so for the first time there are more disabled people of working age in work than there are out of work—precisely because of the kind of programme that my hon. Friend talks about"—*Official Report*, col 630.

The correct answer is as follows:

> "My hon. Friend is right, and we must ensure that we also help young people who have different disabilities and need additional help with different ways into work. She may also be interested to know that the proportion of disabled people in work is now 47.5 per cent. compared with 42 per cent. ten years ago and over half of working age disabled people are now in work or claim to be actively seeking employment—precisely because of the kind of programme that my hon. Friend talks about."

I apologise to the hon. Lady for these inadvertent errors.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 4 November 2009

DEFENCE

Service Children's Education (Key Targets 2009-10)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The chief executive of Service Children's Education has been set the following key targets for 2009-10:

Key Target 1—Foundation Stage

56 per cent. of children to achieve at least 78 points in the EYFS profile with at least a score of six in each of the scales in personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy.

Key Target 2—Key Stage 1

89 per cent. of pupils to achieve at least a level 2c+ in reading.

87 per cent. of pupils to achieve at least a level 2c+ in writing.

95 per cent. of pupils to achieve at least a level 2c+ in mathematics.

Percentage of pupils achieving a level 3+ in reading should match or exceed the national average.

Percentage of pupils achieving a level 3+ in writing should match or exceed the national average.

Percentage of pupils achieving a level 3+ in mathematics should match or exceed the national average.

Key Target 3—Key Stage 2

The percentage of pupils achieving a level 4 in both English and mathematics should match or exceed the national average.

The percentage of pupils achieving a level 5+ in English should match or exceed the national average.

The percentage of pupils achieving a level 5+ in mathematics should match or exceed the national average.

The percentage of pupils achieving 2 levels of progress in English between KS1 and KS2 should match or exceed the national average.

The percentage of pupils achieving 2 levels of progress in mathematics between KS1 and KS2 should match or exceed the national average.

Key Target 4—Key Stage 3

76 per cent. of pupils to achieve level 5 or above in both English and mathematics.

82 per cent. of pupils to achieve level 5 or above in science.

34 per cent. of pupils to achieve at least 2 levels of progress in English between KS2 and KS3.

70 per cent. of pupils to achieve at least 2 levels of progress in mathematics between KS2 and KS3.

Key Target 5—Key Stage 4

54 per cent. of pupils to achieve 5 or more A* - C including English and mathematics in GCSE and equivalent examinations (SCE to base figures on three-year moving average).

69 per cent. of pupils to progress by 2 levels in English between KS3 and KS4.

34 per cent. of pupils to achieve 2 levels of progress in mathematics between KS3 and KS4.

Key Target 6—Key Stage 5

72 per cent. of entries achieve grades A-C at A level.

Key Target 7

To achieve an overall parental customer satisfaction rating of at least 85 per cent. in the 2009-10 parental survey.

HEALTH

Regulation of Social Care

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State issued a written ministerial statement on 20 July, *Official Report*, column 96WS about the discovery of a backlog of conduct cases which had been identified by the General Social Care Council (GSCC). He announced that we would be asking the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) to undertake a review of the GSCC's conduct functions. CHRE today published the report of its review of the GSCC. The Government welcome this report.

CHRE's report sets out a series of serious operational failings in the conduct function by the GSCC, which investigates complaints about social workers. Insufficient attention was paid to a growing backlog of conduct cases, despite additional funding being provided by the Department for three years to enable GSCC to address a growing number of complaints. Of particular concern was the decision to suspend, for a period of time, any new referrals to the GSCC's professional conduct committee.

The Government have today broadly accepted all of the recommendations made by CHRE and a full response to its report is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/
Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/
DH_107882.

I met with the GSCC's Chair, Rosie Varley, on behalf of both the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families to express Ministers' concerns about the issues raised in the report and to set out clear expectations for the GSCC going forward.

Significant progress has already been made in handling cases on receipt of complaints and addressing any ongoing risks to the public resulting from the poor management of conduct since July. Ministers have been assured by the Chair of the GSCC that all cases are now routinely risk-assessed and allocated to a responsible manager who ensures that risk is continually reviewed as new information arises. Interim suspension orders, which suspend the registration of social workers against whom serious complaints have been made while they are investigated, are now being applied for where appropriate.

The GSCC has also begun the process of reforming its operational processes and strengthening its infrastructure to support performance management of its conduct function. A remedial plan to address the backlog of cases is now in place and Ministers have asked for monthly reports on progress to be provided to the Department.

Ministers have made it clear to the Chair of the GSCC that they expect to see significant operational improvements as a result of the implementation of the Council's action plan by the end of March 2010, including the resolution of the oldest cases. The Chair of the GSCC has been asked to personally oversee reform of the GSCC's procedures, to ensure effective governance and to report on progress to Ministers in March 2010.

The Department of Health will continue to work closely with the GSCC to assure and assist in the delivery of its recovery plans.

The CHRE's report and the Government's response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) marked a major step in the protection of privacy. Prior to RIPA, many of the more intrusive techniques which it regulates could be used by any public authority and authorised at any level, for any purpose. There was no comprehensive system of independent oversight, no independent judicial complaints mechanism available in relation to all these techniques, and no means by which Parliament could prescribe the ranks of authorising officers or limit the purposes for which the techniques could be used. In addressing this situation, RIPA ensured that only specified public authorities could continue to use certain key techniques to protect the public, and only if they could do so compatibly with the European convention on human rights and, particularly, the article 8 right to respect for private and family life.

Nevertheless, a small number of local authorities have authorised techniques under RIPA in circumstances when most of us would say it was not necessary or proportionate for them to do so. In order to prevent this happening again, my Department published on Friday 17 April a consultation paper entitled "Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Consolidating Orders and Codes of Practice". This paper set out proposals to ensure that techniques regulated in RIPA can continue to be used when they are necessary and proportionate, but that there is no repetition of the small number of cases when they have been misused.

Today I am publishing a summary of the responses submitted as part of this consultation exercise. The summary explains how I intend to develop the proposals set out in the consultation paper in the light of the responses received.

My Department received 222 responses to the consultation exercise. As explained in the summary, most of the responses were broadly supportive of the proposals in the consultation document. Subject to minor changes set out in the summary, I intend to take forward the proposals for secondary legislation described in the consultation document as soon as possible. The secondary legislation, and the related codes of practice, will include measures to:

a) clarify the test of necessity and proportionality so techniques will not be used for trivial purposes such as investigating dog fouling or people putting bins out a day early;

b) raise the rank of authorising officer for RIPA techniques in local authorities to senior executive at a minimum of "Director" level;

c) give elected councillors a role in overseeing the way local authorities use covert investigatory techniques;

d) require constituents' communications with MPs on constituency business to be treated as confidential information, and therefore subject to authorisation by a higher rank of officer;

e) treat covert surveillance of legal consultations as "intrusive" rather than "directed" surveillance, meaning that it can only be carried out by a very limited number of public authorities, primarily the police and intelligence agencies, and only with independent approval;

f) clarify how provisions currently in the Policing and Crime Bill will reduce bureaucracy relating to RIPA in police collaborative units comprising two or more forces.

Following a proposal by the Local Government Association, I intend to require each local authority to appoint a single official to be responsible for ensuring that all authorising officers are of an appropriate standard. This new role will have to be filled by a member of the corporate management team to whom authorising officers will report.

A number of respondents suggested that the key to effective and appropriate use of RIPA techniques was training, rather than the rank of authorising officers. With this in mind, I have asked my officials to work with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association and the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services to establish a package of accredited training for local authority authorising officers, and, in addition, to prepare bespoke written guidance on how local authorities should use RIPA.

It is absolutely clear that a wide range of public authorities need to be able to authorise key techniques under RIPA in order to protect us from those who would do us harm. It is equally clear that public authorities must respect our right to privacy and only use techniques under RIPA when it is necessary and proportionate to do so. I believe the measures outlined in the summary of responses will ensure that both objectives can be met.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Committee on Standards in Public Life (MPs' Expenses and Allowances)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The Committee on Standards in Public Life will be publishing its report on Members' allowances today. Copies of the report addressed to individual Members will be available in Members' Lobby from 10.00 am. Copies will also be available to Members from the vote office.

I will make an oral statement this afternoon.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent Monitoring Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have received the Twenty-second report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report has been made under Articles 4 and 7 of the international agreement that established the commission and it reports on levels of paramilitary activity in Northern Ireland. I have considered the content of the report and I am today bringing it before Parliament. I have placed copies in the Libraries of both Houses.

The IMC report on the serious threat posed by dissident republicans. They conclude that the activities of both the Real IRA and the Continuity IRA, including the murders of Sappers Quinsey and Azimkar and PC Carroll in March and a number of other extremely serious incidents, are designed to undermine peaceful political progress. The IMC note that the completion of devolution could be a potent intervention "because policing and justice would no longer be a point of contention across the political divide" but rather be "a platform for co-operation against those trying to undermine the peace process". The Government remain committed to do all they can to provide a solid foundation for a devolved Department of Justice.

The IMC also acknowledge the very real progress towards decommissioning made by loyalists. They conclude that the UVF is an organisation on its way to going out of business and that the leadership of the UDA has given a significant lead to change the organisation and shown remarkable commitment and progress in community development. I, too, hope that the UDA will follow through on the commitments it has made and complete the decommissioning process.

TRANSPORT

Special Grant Funding 2010-11 (National Bus Concession)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I am today issuing a consultation paper on the distribution of concessionary travel special grant funding for local authorities in 2010-11.

Following the extension of the statutory bus concession in April 2008, to provide free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England, the Government have provided additional special grant funding to local authorities of £212 million in 2008-09, followed by £217 million for 2009-10 and £223 million for 2010-11. This is in addition to the funding that Government provide each year for concessionary travel through the formula grant process, bringing total spending on concessionary travel to around £1 billion a year.

A special grant report, which specified the amounts to be paid to authorities for the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11, was approved by Parliament in March 2008. The formula used to distribute the extra funding was based on data on eligible local population, visitor numbers, retail floor space and current bus use. As such it was designed to take account of likely demand in areas such as coastal towns, urban centres and other places likely to experience an increase in costs.

There is no evidence that the additional special grant funding is insufficient in total to meet the costs of the new concession. However, I am aware of some distributional issues that have arisen that have led to around 30 (out of over 260) travel concession authorities at risk of a significant shortfall in funding. At the same time I am aware of other authorities that may have received more funding than they require to meet the additional costs of the improved concession.

It is for this reason that I am today launching a consultation on whether to allocate the special grant for 2010-11 using a revised distribution, which seeks better to match the pattern of costs being incurred by local authorities. Any revised grant distribution developed after the consultation will be published in the form of a special grant report which will itself then be the subject of parliamentary scrutiny in due course.

Earlier this year we also consulted on the way in which concessionary travel will be administered from 2011. Over 200 responses were received to the consultation and we are in the process of considering these responses. I expect to be able to make a further announcement on the outcome of this consultation in due course.

I would like to emphasise that the funding distribution and administrative issues should by no means detract from the success of the national bus concession, which the Government will continue to offer to older and disabled people in England. These changes make no change to either the services pass holders are entitled to use, or to who can receive the concession. Concessionaires themselves should therefore not notice any difference in the service they receive, under the proposals suggested.

The introduction of free off-peak local bus travel throughout England from 1 April 2008 has given the opportunity for greater freedom and independence to around 11 million older and disabled people. No older or disabled person in England now need be prevented from local bus travel by cost alone and the scheme represents a major step forward in tackling social inclusion for some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

State Pension and Pension Credit

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): I am pleased to announce our intention to introduce amending regulations to align the payment arrangements for state pension and pension credit with the arrangements for working age benefits.

We plan to introduce a new part-week payment for people who move onto state pension from a working age benefit, to ensure that they do not experience a break in payments. DWP customers would also be able to keep the same payday and pattern of payments when they reach pension age.

In line with current practice for working age benefits, people who reach state pension age on or after 6 April 2010 will be allocated a payday based on the last two digits of their national insurance number, and will be paid in arrears. Customers will continue to have a choice around how frequently they are paid.

This is not a savings measure, and existing recipients of state pension and pension credit will not be affected by these changes.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 5 November 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Personal, Social and Health Education

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The issues that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) covers are all central to children and young people's well-being and to their healthy development as they grow up. They are nutrition and physical activity; drugs, alcohol and tobacco; sex and relationships; emotional health and well-being; safety; careers education; work-related learning; and personal finance.

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is one important constituent element of PSHE education. As well as being crucial to the drive to reduce teenage pregnancy it is vital for the healthy development of every child and young person.

I set out my intention to review SRE in the Children's Plan, which was published in December 2007. A review group was established early in 2008 to this end, comprised of experts and representatives of faith groups, including the Church of England and the Catholic Education Service. The group was jointly chaired by the then Minister of State for Schools and Learners, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight); Jackie Fisher, principal of Newcastle college; and a representative of the UK Youth Parliament, in recognition of the importance of the review being informed by the views and experiences of young people, as well as those of parents and experts in SRE.

The review group completed its work in the summer of 2008. The review provided evidence, including from young people themselves, that the quality of SRE being delivered was too variable and was failing to meet young people's needs on a consistent basis.

The group stressed that PSHE education was not given sufficient priority in schools and that its lack of status, specifically its non-statutory national curriculum status, was a key factor in explaining why schools did not prioritise it. The group was clear and unanimous in its view that making PSHE education statutory was necessary to achieve a step-change in the quality and status of the PSHE education children that young people receive.

The group recommended that this statutory content (for secondary schools) should be based on the current non-statutory programmes of study for "personal well-being", on which it based its work. It also made it clear that the statutory content for primary schools should be based on new programmes of study for personal well-being, developed by the Qualification and Curriculum Authority (QCA) in the context of Jim Rose's review of the primary curriculum. I am placing a copy of the SRE content of the PSHE programmes of study in the House Libraries for information, alongside this statement.

A review group which focused on drug and alcohol education, another key component of PSHE education, and which ran to the same time scale as the SRE review group, also included among its recommendations that PSHE education should be made statutory.

In the written ministerial statement on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 15WS, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset made clear our intention to accept the recommendations from both these review groups to make PSHE education statutory. The statement also announced that I had commissioned Sir Alasdair Macdonald CBE, the outstanding head teacher of Morpeth school, to conduct an independent review to address the question of how the principle that PSHE education should have statutory status could best be taken forward into practice. In particular, I asked Sir Alasdair to examine how we could best ensure that in the sensitive area of SRE:

> schools can continue to be able to tailor the curriculum in the ways they think best suit their pupils;
>
> school governing bodies can retain their right to determine their own approach, in accordance with the ethos of their school; and
>
> the arrangements put in place appropriately recognise and respect the rights of the very small minority of parents who already withdraw their children, and of those parents who might want to do so in future.

In carrying out his review Sir Alasdair talked to children and young people, parents, schools, faith groups and expert organisations involved in the development and provision of PSHE education. His findings were also informed by the results of a call for written evidence; field visits to a wide range of schools and professionals in local areas, selected on the basis of recommendations from expert organisations, including Ofsted; and focus groups with children and young people.

Sir Alasdair delivered his report to me in March 2009 and I set out his findings and the Government's response in a written statement laid on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 31WS. Sir Alasdair's key recommendations were that, in making PSHE education statutory:

> PSHE education must be an integral element of all initial teacher training courses and of the continuing professional development of teachers, school support staff and the wider children's work force involved in its delivery;
>
> Governing bodies should retain the right to determine their school's approach to SRE and in doing so:
>
> i. They should ensure this can be delivered in line with the context, values and ethos of the school, but in a way that is also consistent with the core entitlement to PSHE education.
>
> ii. Governing bodies should also retain the duty to maintain an up-to-date SRE policy, which is made available to inspectors, parents and young people.
>
> iii. Governing bodies should involve parents and young people (in the secondary phase) in developing their SRE policy, to ensure that this meets the needs of their pupils, and reflects parents' wishes and the culture of the communities they serve.
>
> The existing right of parental withdrawal from SRE should be maintained.

In my statement to the House on 27 April 2009 I confirmed the Government's intention to accept all of Sir Alasdair's recommendations. The right to statutory

PSHE was included in the pupil guarantee in the White Paper published by my Department in June and I confirmed that it would apply to all state funded schools.

In my April statement I also said we would now consult on the detail of these recommendations, prior to moving to legislate on these matters. That consultation process has now been carried out and completed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA), on my Department's behalf, covering a wide range of detailed issues relevant to PSHE, and I am placing copies of their report setting out the results in the House Libraries.

This report makes clear that a wide range of views and opinions were expressed, which the QCDA gathered through a variety of means, including an online consultation to which 6,000 people responded. QCDA also consulted through conferences; focus groups; and specially designed surveys of children and parents. The QCDA report also sets out their view that the results of their online consultation were influenced by campaigns on these matters conducted by several specific interest groups. The report explains that the QCDA sought to take this into account in their analysis and interpretation of the data.

I have considered carefully the outcomes of this consultation, together with Sir Alasdair Macdonald's report and all the other information that has become available about these matters since my decision to review SRE in November 2007.

As a result, I can confirm our decision to accept the recommendations of the SRE review group and to proceed with legislation to make PSHE education part of the statutory national curriculum in both the primary and secondary phases. As the SRE group established in 2008 recommended, PSHE education will therefore be a foundation subject in the national curriculum in key stages 3 and 4, with the existing non-statutory programmes of study forming the basis for a core entitlement that all pupils should receive. At primary level the proposed new programme of learning, "Understanding Physical Development, Health and Well-being" will be the basis of the core entitlement that all pupils should receive.

Over the last few months an issue has arisen about the age up to which parents should be able to withdraw their children from SRE, if they wish to exercise their right to do so. Currently parents have the right to withdraw their children up to the age of 19. In practice, only a very small minority of parents choose to exercise this right. However, I believe it is very important that this right is maintained. This is all the more necessary once, subject to the will of Parliament, PSHE education becomes a statutory part of the national curriculum.

It is important that parents, schools and young people are all clear about the age that is set, and that this is supported by parents and young people, as well as being practically deliverable and legally enforceable. We have, therefore, consulted experts in SRE and representatives of faith groups, among others, about this. In addition, my Department commissioned some further quantitative and qualitative research in October 2009 to gather further relevant information. I am placing reports of the outcomes from that research in the House Libraries.

This research, which was carried out with samples of parents and of adults, found quite a wide spectrum of opinion, against a context in which four out of five parent respondents (81 per cent.) to the surveys said they supported the principle that all children should receive SRE. When asked about the right of withdrawal, 20 per cent. of parents said there should be no right of withdrawal, 33 per cent. of parents said the right should end at age 11, 9 per cent. said it should end at age 14, and 7 per cent. at the age of 16. A clear majority therefore supported a reduction in the age to which a right of parental withdrawal should apply.

After careful consideration of the outcomes of discussions with experts and other interested parties, including representatives of faith groups, and of the findings of this research, I have concluded that parents' right to withdraw their children from SRE should continue until their children reach the age of 15. I have come to this view because I believe that proceeding on this basis is balanced, practically deliverable and legally enforceable, and maintains the right of withdrawl for the small number of parents who wish to exercise it. I also believe that setting the age limit at 15 offers the best chance of building a strong consensus.

This means that every young person will receive at least one year of SRE before their 16th birthday.

It is of critical importance, in ensuring that PSHE helps children to achieve all their Every Child Matters outcomes, that the content of the new PSHE education curriculum is carefully thought through and constructed. This has already been the subject of detailed consultation with schools, young people, parents, faith groups and experts in the field, and through the work of the SRE review group. The proposed content of SRE that will be taught when PSHE education becomes statutory will now be subject to further formal statutory consultation on the detail, the process to be overseen by the QCDA and to be concluded by autumn 2010.

In order to implement the measures set out in this statement we will include provisions, as necessary, in the forthcoming Children, Schools and Families Bill.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leasehold Advisory Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin): I have deposited in the Library of the House a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE) for the financial year 2008-09.

LEASE is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government to provide advice, information and other services to the public and others in relation to residential leasehold, and by the Ministry of Justice in respect of commonhold law.

The report sets out its main activities and performance during the year, a summary of its forward plans, details of the financial status of the service, along with statistics on the number of enquiries it has dealt with over the last 12 months.

It shows the significant volume of enquiries (over 28,000) that the service has dealt with over the last 12 months as part of its work, the growing use of its website, and success of its mediation scheme, and gives an indication of the valued role which LEASE continues to play in the leasehold sector in providing advice to those who require information about their rights.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Items Accepted in Lieu of Tax

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): 2008-09 has, once again, been a year of outstanding success for the acceptance-in-lieu scheme with a wide range of cultural objects saved for the nation. Objects ranging from a Titian to a David Hockney, and from family archives to architectural drawings, with a value of £19.8 million have been accepted under the scheme.

This year's allocation includes "The Triumph of Love" by Titian and works by Van Dyck, Millais and Reynolds. Archives also feature heavily in this year's report, as do works by contemporary artists, including Frank Auerbach, David Hockney and Howard Hodgkin. Once again, the scheme has helped to save items which are of significance within a more local context such as a landscape by Gainsborough which is to be allocated to Norwich Castle Museum.

All of these items will now be available for everyone to enjoy for all time.

A full report detailing all of the material accepted in lieu in 2008-09 will be issued later today by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, which administers the scheme on behalf of the Government. It is available online at:

www.mla.gov.uk/what/cultural/tax/acceptance_in_lieu.

The following statement gives details of disposals and transfers made during 2008-09 as required under Section 9 (6) of the National Heritage Act 1980.

Table 1: Allocations made under the National Heritage Act 9(3) of items accepted in lieu of tax in the financial year 2008-09—permanent allocations.

Item	*To whom permanently allocated*
The Gerald Coke Handel Collection	The Foundling Museum
Le Chateau de la Duchesse de Berry by Richard Parkes Bonington (1802-28)	The Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Nottingham
The architectural archive of William Nicholas Brakspear (1818-98)	Royal Institute of British Architects
Iranian Qajar Enamelled Gold Bowl	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Japanese Edo-period Helmet	Victoria and Albert Museum
Achill Landscape by Paul Henry (1876-1958)	Tate
The Triumph of Love by Titian (Tiziano Vecello)(c. 1485-1576)	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Trafalgar Sword and three groups of medals	The National Trust for display at Claydon House, Buckinghamshire
The archive of Henry Addington, Viscount Sidmouth	Devon Record Office
Lead Mining at Leadhills (four paintings) by David Allan (1744-96)	National Galleries of Scotland
The Bingley Cups	Victoria and Albert Museum
Portrait of Princess Mary by Sir Anthony van Dyck (1599-1641)	Historic Royal Palaces for display at Hampton Court Palace
Landscape by Thomas Gainsborough (1727-88)	Castle Museum, Norwich
The Entrance to the Grand Canal by Francesco Guardi (1712-93)	Northampton Museum and Art Gallery
Study of Arms by Perino del Vaga (1501-47)	The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Birds in a Landscape by Jacob Bogdani (1658-1724)	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery
Study for Doll Boy and The Berliner and the Bavarian by David Hockney (b. 1937)	Tate
The Vigor Family by Joseph Highmore (1692-1780)	Victoria and Albert Museum
18th century needlework	Victoria and Albert Museum
Still Life with Green Bottle by Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell (1883-1937)	National Galleries of Scotland
The Flower Seller by Walter Sickert (1860-1942)	Charleston, East Sussex
Shrubland Park architectural archive	Suffolk Record Office
The Archive of Sir Joseph Rotblat	Churchill Archive Centre, Cambridge

Table 2: Allocations made under the National Heritage Act 9(4) of items accepted in lieu of tax in the Financial Year 2008-09—temporary allocations (those not superceded by a permanent allocation).

Item	*To whom temporarily allocated*
The archive of the Winn Family of Nostell Priory	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council for management by the West Yorkshire Archive Service
Horace Walpole's Mirror from Strawberry Hill	Leeds City Council for display at Temple Newsam House, Leeds
Portrait of the Rev. Isaac Donnithorne by Thomas Gainsborough (1727-88)	Tate
The Archive of Frank Martin (1914-2004)	Tate
Three works by David Bomberg (1890-1957)	National Galleries of Scotland
Children Playing (recto) and *The Fireplace* (verso) by Joan Eardley (1921-63)	National Galleries of Scotland
The Aberdare Archive	Glamorgan Archive Joint Committee for deposit at the Glamorgan Record Office
Portrait of Julia by Frank Auerbach (b. 1932)	National Galleries of Scotland
The Angelus by Jean-Francois Millet (1814-75)	British Museum
Hagar and the Angel by John Runciman (1744-69)	National Galleries of Scotland
Portrait of the Harcourt Family by Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-92)	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Three nephrite handclubs and a stone adze	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Punch and Judy Archive	Victoria and Albert Museum
Portrait of Violet Trefusis by Sir John Lavery (1856-1941)	National Portrait Gallery
Portrait of Oscar Browning by Emanuel Romano (1897-1984)	National Portrait Gallery
Penrhyn Castle Papers	Bangor University Library and Archive Service

Item	*To whom temporarily allocated*
Penrhyn Quarry Papers	Caernarfon Record Office
Flower Painting by Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder (1573-1621)	The National Gallery
Shipping on the Schelde by Bonaventura Peeters (1614-52)	The National Gallery
The Proscribed Royalist by Sir John Everett Millais (1829-1896)	Tate
Architectural Drawing by Jean Tijou (fl. 1689-1712)	Royal Institute of British Architects
Roman funerary monument and altar	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Portrait of Peter Cochrane by Sir Howard Hodgkin (b. 1932)	National Portrait Gallery
Narcissus by Paris Bordone (1500-1571)	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Procedures Committee (Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): In accordance with section 20(5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, the Committee's annual report for 2008 has today been laid before the House. Copies are available in the Vote Office. The report includes:

The 86/609 Working Group submitted advice to the Home Office in relation to the revision of Directive EC 86/609.

The Housing and Husbandry Sub-Committee guidance on fish welfare and euthanasia.

The Education and Training Sub-Committee continued its work on module 5 training and guidance for accrediting bodies.

The Ministers updated response to the Animal Procedures Committee's report on the annual statistical report.

The Applications Sub-Committee produced guidance to applicants for the process of referral to the Applications Sub-Committee.

The Committee's programme of work for 2009 onwards.

Proceeds of Crime

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I am issuing today guidance to the Serious Organised Crime Agency on the exercise of its functions under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. I am placing a copy of the guidance in the Library.

Under section 2A of the 2002 Act, as inserted by paragraph 124 of schedule 8 to the Serious Crime Act 2007, SOCA must exercise its functions in the way which it considers is best calculated to contribute to the reduction of crime. In considering this, SOCA must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The guidance broadly sets out the way in which the agency should operate in this respect.

Guidance in the same terms is being issued simultaneously by the Attorney-General to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Director of Revenue and Customs Prosecutions, the Director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, in accordance with section 2A. In the interests of convenience and consistency of approach the Attorney-General and I are issuing our guidance jointly in the same document.

The joint guidance is being issued in accordance with the commitment in the Government's report "Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime" (Cm 7665), published in July, to facilitate the use of non-conviction based asset recovery powers.

I am placing a copy of the joint guidance on the Home Office website.

JUSTICE

Judicial Declarations (Freemasonry)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Since 1998, all first time successful candidates for judicial appointment or the magistracy have been required to declare whether or not they are freemasons, the aim of the scheme being to promote public confidence in the judicial system. This policy was part of a wider approach across the criminal justice system, though its particular application differed in the separate services of the criminal justice system.

The policy was put in place in response to a report of the Home Affairs Select Committee—Home Affairs Committee Third Report: Freemasonry in the Police and Judiciary Session 1996-97 (HC 192). The report itself made no finding of impropriety in the conduct of the judiciary arising from membership of individual members of the judiciary of the freemasons. Its recommendations were therefore of a precautionary nature, and intended to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The United Grand Lodge of England made representations in May. They drew attention to the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in Grande Oriente d'Italia di Palazzo Guistiniani v Italy (no.1) and Grande Oriente d'Italia di Palazzo Guistiniani v Italy (no.2) and indicated that they might seek judicially to review the application of the policy to the judiciary. In the light of my consideration of those representations I decided to review the policy.

As a result of this review we have decided to end the current policy of requiring applicants for judicial office to declare membership of the freemasons.

The review of the policy operating since 1998 has shown no evidence of impropriety or malpractice within the judiciary as a result of a judge being a freemason and in my judgement, therefore, it would be disproportionate to continue the collection or retention of this information.

There are existing safeguards that help support the proper performance of judicial functions, and these apply to freemasonry no less than to other interests—in particular, the judicial oath, the availability of the complaints procedure and the office for judicial complaints, the independence of the Judicial Appointments Commission which recommends candidates for judicial appointment, and judicial terms and conditions of service.

I remain committed to the overarching objective of ensuring public confidence and transparency in the justice system. I believe that the safeguards mentioned will achieve this, but in the light of this change in policy I will keep under review, together with the Lord Chief Justice, whether other action is required.

TRANSPORT

Franchise Rail Services

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport, has made the following ministerial statement.

Further to my statements on 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 225 and *Official Report*, column WS 24, on east coast main line rail services, after the close of the markets yesterday I notified National Express East Coast Ltd that I am terminating their franchise with effect from 11.59 pm on 13 November.

The publicly owned east coast main line company will take over running of this franchise from that time, with an orderly handover from National Express East Coast. I can assure the travelling public that services will continue without disruption and all tickets will be honoured. Staff currently employed by National Express East Coast will transfer to the east coast main line company under the Transfers of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE), with the necessary statutory consultation.

Petition

Thursday 29 October 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Elimination of Hunger and Thirst

The Petition of Mr Martin Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love,

Declares that there is no end to what the British people might do when they are fed well; notes that Mr Burke of Elizabeth Regina Love has petitioned the House of Commons to bear in mind the General Economic Measurement Scale and the General Democratic Voting Scale; further notes that this petition is about the elimination of both hunger and thirst, and, especially, the fear of hunger and thirst; and further declares that he has faith in the wisdom and judgement of the British people.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons bears in mind in its law making a Universal Daily Cash Benefit (UDCB) to the value of the cost of food and drink for a day; and that should the question be put the House consents to the benefit contained in this petition; and further requests that should the question be put the House of Commons consents that this petition be communicated to the world's other parliaments.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000373]

Petitions

Wednesday 4 November 2009

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Equitable Life (Hendon)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Hendon in London,

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Dismore.]*

[P000412]

Equitable Life (Redbridge)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Redbridge in Essex,

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000410]

Equitable Life (Wantage)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Wantage in Oxfordshire,

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000414]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 26 October 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Ministers of Religion

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time non-stipendiary Ministers are currently registered by the Church of England. [294961]

Sir Stuart Bell: At the end of 2007—the last year for which figures are available—there were 3,198 licensed non-stipendiary ministers but it is not possible to say how many were full- and part-time as requested. Non-stipendiary ministers are usually employed outside the Church and some minister regularly while others minister only occasionally.

In addition, there were 1,568 clergy in chaplaincy and other ministries (e.g. forces chaplains, hospital chaplains, school chaplains and clergy on the staff of theological colleges). Information on whether they are full-time or part-time is not held centrally.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293337]

Mr. Woodward: My Department's spend on first class rail travel is set out in the following table.

	Expenditure (£)
2006-07	14,523.24
2007-08	7,431.06
2008-09	10,710.80

The majority of this expenditure is for travel between Belfast and Dublin. These figures include all first class rail travel booked through my Department's central travel booking service. It does not include the cost of travel paid for by individual members of staff and then reclaimed from the Department. This additional information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Accommodation

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what dormitory accommodation *(a)* is available in Northern Ireland's prisons and *(b)* has been used between 1 September 2006 and 1 September 2009; [294335]

(2) what types of accommodation sex offenders occupy in prisons in Northern Ireland; [294343]

(3) what categories of prisoner are housed in dormitory accommodation in prisons in Northern Ireland; [294347]

(4) whether sex offenders are planned to be housed in the Foyleview Resettlement Unit of HMP Magilligan. [294349]

Paul Goggins: There is a 64-bed dormitory accommodation unit (Sperrin) at Magilligan Prison and an eight-bed dormitory accommodation unit at Hydebank Wood. Both have been used between 1 September 2006 and 1 September 2009.

Sex offenders may occupy cellular accommodation, single rooms or dormitories.

At 19 October the Sperrin unit held 37 Category B/C prisoners in custody for sexual offences and one other Category B prisoner, all of whom were sentenced. At Hydebank Wood there were three inmates housed in dormitory accommodation with non-sexual offences—two of these were sentenced and one was on remand.

Since 24 September a total of five sex offenders, who have met the strict criteria necessary for their placement, have been housed in Foyleview Resettlement Unit at Magilligan.

Prisons

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are taken by the Northern Ireland Prison Service to establish the truth of claims made by inmates that they are related to children. [294344]

Paul Goggins: Where a prisoner comes under the Public Protection Arrangements and sexual offence prevention orders, non-molestation orders or any other order of the court or notification in accordance with HSS Circular 3/96 "Sharing to Safeguard" is in place, the Prison Service ensures that any requirements with regards to contact with children are fully enforced. In relation to other inmates who claim a relationship to children and where there is no basis for the service to doubt such a relationship, additional checks are not usually undertaken.

Prisons: Correspondence

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many illicit items were discovered in prison mail in each prison establishment in Northern Ireland in each month between April and September 2009; [294332]

(2) what procedures there are for the *(a)* examination and *(b)* censorship of mail addressed to inmates in (i) HMP Maghaberry, (ii) HMP Magilligan, (iii) HMP Hydebank Wood and (iv) Young Offenders Centre at Hydebank Wood. [294348]

Paul Goggins: I am advised that there were no prohibited items in list A or list B as set out in Article 77 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 discovered between April and September 2009. Central records are not held of all items which may be considered inappropriate by each establishment.

In all establishments all mail addressed to inmates is opened by prison staff and checked for illicit enclosures. Routinely up to 10 per cent. of mail is censored. Special arrangements, where stipulated, apply to inmates who come under the public protection arrangements and are the subject of sexual offence prevention orders, non-molestation orders, or any other directions of the court; in such cases all in-coming and out-going mail will be subject to offence-related monitoring.

Prisons: Photographs

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) whether photographs sent to inmates in prisons in Northern Ireland prisons are examined by prison staff before delivery; [294334]

(2) what steps are taken when inappropriate photographs of children are discovered on the premises of prisons in Northern Ireland; [294341]

(3) whether the photographs kept on walls by prisoners in prisons in Northern Ireland are regularly inspected; [294345]

(4) what steps are being taken to prevent inappropriate photographs of children from *(a)* entering and *(b)* being circulated within prisons in Northern Ireland. [294346]

Paul Goggins: All incoming mail to inmates in Northern Ireland prisons is opened by prison staff and examined for any enclosures. All photographs will be examined by prison staff before delivery. If a photograph is deemed inappropriate it will not be forwarded to the prisoner until the relevant investigations are made.

Each establishment has a designated child protection co-ordinator who will be informed if an inappropriate photograph of a child is discovered. The co-ordinator will advise staff and, on the basis of the initial material, will make a decision as to whether or not to refer the matter to social services in the trust area where the child has a home address. Social services may, in turn, arrange for notification of the police. The co-ordinator will also, as appropriate, inform the parents of the actions being taken.

All prisoners' cells are regularly inspected and searched by prison staff. Photographs on walls will be inspected as part of that process and may be removed as part of that inspection procedure. If an inappropriate photograph is found it would be confiscated and investigations undertaken.

Road Traffic Offences: Prosecutions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to enable motoring offences committed in Northern Ireland by drivers of vehicles originating from the Republic of Ireland to be prosecuted; whether the Police Service of Northern Ireland has access to registered keeper details for vehicles registered in the Republic of Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [295579]

Paul Goggins: Roads policing policy in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the Department of Environment. Access to vehicle registers is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked the Chief Constable to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in Northern Ireland who (i) have been convicted of and (ii) are awaiting trial on charges of sexual offences are housed in each location in each prison in Northern Ireland; [294333]

(2) how many sex offenders were in prison in Northern Ireland on 1 September 2009. [294342]

Paul Goggins: As of 19 October 2009 there were *(a)* 194 males and *(b)* one female totalling 195 sex offenders in Northern Ireland prisons. The following table shows the breakdown of the prisoner custodial category and their location within each prison.

Establishment	*House*	*Sentenced (i)*	*Remand (ii)*	*Total*
Maghaberry	Bann	1	—	1
	Braid	1	—	1
	Bush	17	20	37
	Erne	3	—	3
	Glen	2	—	2
	Lagan	3	13	16
	Pre-release scheme	1	—	1
	Roe	6	5	11
	Special Supervision Unit	2	—	2
	Wilson	4	—	4
Magilligan	Alpha	23	—	23
	Foyleview	5	—	5
	Halward	1	—	1
	H Block 1	1	—	1
	H Block 2	39	—	39

Establishment	*House*	*Sentenced (i)*	*Remand (ii)*	*Total*
	Sperrin	38	—	38
Hydebank Wood male	Beech	—	2	2
	Cedar	3	1	4
	Elm	1	—	1
	Willow	1	1	2
Hydebank Wood female	Ash	—	1	1
Total		152	43	195

On 1 September there were 191 sex offenders in Northern Ireland prisons.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: ICT

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps the House of Commons Commission *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to make the Parliamentary House of Commons intranet compatible with computers running Windows Vista 64-bit edition; and if he will make a statement. [295040]

Nick Harvey: No alterations need to be made to the Parliament intranet specifically for Windows desktop Vista 64 bit edition. The intranet is delivered through internet browsing technology which is independent of the system on which the browser runs.

Speaker: Pay

Kate Hoey: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1039-40W, on the Speaker, for what reason the remuneration to be paid to the special adviser to Mr. Speaker is commercial in confidence. [295665]

Nick Harvey: The House does not disclose financial arrangements under commercial contracts in order to preserve its competitive negotiating position with other similar potential contractors.

Speaker: Recruitment

Kate Hoey: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what interviews were conducted with the person contracted to provide services as Mr. Speaker's special adviser in the course of the House's procurement process. [295666]

Nick Harvey: Separate interviews were conducted by the Speaker and Professor Michael Horsman, an independent member of the House's Senior Pay Panel.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent progress the Electoral Commission has made in its investigation into the permissibility of donations by Fifth Avenue Partners Ltd; and what recent discussions the Electoral Commission has had with the City of London Police on that matter. [295487]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it aims to conclude the investigation as quickly as possible but that its priority must be to ensure that the process is fair and thorough. The Commission further informs me that it continues to liaise with the City of London Police. It would not be appropriate to provide further details of a continuing investigation.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many full-time equivalent staff are working on the Electoral Commission's investigation into the permissibility of donations by Fifth Avenue Partners and Mr. Michael Brown; what the cost of that investigation has been; when that investigation began; and when that investigation was *(a)* suspended and *(b)* resumed. [295488]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it began inquiries in May 2005 into the donations from 5th Avenue Partners Ltd. to the Liberal Democrats and that those inquiries were suspended in March 2007 pending the outcome of criminal proceedings. Upon conclusion of the proceedings in November 2008, the Commission resumed its investigation. The Commission informs me that it sought access from the City of London Police to relevant documents from the proceedings, obtaining these on 14 May 2009.

The Commission further informs me that it currently has five full-time staff in its party and election finance enforcement team which is responsible for investigations and case reviews. The number of staff working on a particular case at any one time varies and members of the team may work on a number of cases concurrently. There are currently two full-time equivalent members of staff working on the case with input also being provided by senior managers and the Commission's in-house legal team.

The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not record the precise direct and indirect costs associated with any particular case.

TRANSPORT

Accidents: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* serious travel related accidents there have been in (i) the City of York and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1996-97. [295222]

Paul Clark: I understand after clarification from the Member's office, information requested is for road accidents only.

The number of reported fatal and serious personal injury road accidents in the City of York local authority and the Government Office Region of Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1996 are given in the table:

Number of reported personal injury road accidents

	(i) York unitary authority		*(ii) Yorkshire and the Humber*	
	(a) Fatal	*(b) Serious*	*(a) Fatal*	*(b) Serious*
1996[1]	3	59	292	3,220
1997	7	111	295	3,175
1998	4	70	286	3,001
1999	8	106	285	2,922
2000	12	73	288	2,800
2001	6	108	299	2,858
2002	8	103	294	2,893
2003	8	70	296	2,808
2004	7	94	288	2,709
2005	9	71	276	2,507
2006	6	114	278	2,538
2007	4	77	254	2,579
2008	9	71	203	2,362

[1] In April 1996 the City of York local authority became a unitary authority and increased in size.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292657]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's General Ledger has not been configured to identify the business sector in which a grant recipient operates. The Department is therefore unable to identify what grants have been made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years.

Cycling: Helmets

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date he expects to publish his Department's interim research paper on cycle helmets. [294956]

Paul Clark: I refer to the answer given on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1904W.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Excise Duties

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency spent on the *(a)* collection and *(b)* enforcement of vehicle excise duty in each of the last five years. [294605]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, on behalf of Her Majesty's Treasury, collected £5.5 billion of Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) in the last financial year. The following table shows the cost to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to *(a)* collection and *(b)* enforcement of vehicle excise duty in each of the last five years:

£000

Financial year	*Collection of VED*	*Enforcement of VED*
2008-09	132,937	83,928
2007-08	133,980	81,290
2006-07	131,255	85,369
2005-06	123,889	80,967
2004-05	119,518	79,194

First Great Western

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps in collaboration with First Great Western to relieve congestion through *(a)* bringing into service as soon as possible new trains ordered for 2011 and *(b)* other measures. [294998]

Chris Mole: On 23 July the Government announced a major £1 billion programme of rail electrification on the Great Western Main Line. This radically affects the requirements for rolling stock over the next decade.

Long-distance services will now be operated by a new fleet of predominantly electric-powered Super Express Trains, offering faster journeys as well as improved capacity and passenger comfort. Electric trains will also be provided for commuter services. Following the procurement of new Thameslink rolling stock, Great Western electrification will allow four-carriage electric trains currently operating Thameslink services to replace three-carriage diesel trains currently operating on the Great Western Main Line. In addition, once completed, Crossrail will provide significantly increased capacity on Great Western services into London.

In view of Great Western electrification, the procurement by the Government of new diesel trains, some of which would have entered service on the Great Western Main Line, has been superseded. The Government will publish a new Rolling Stock Plan in the autumn, taking account of the changed circumstances.

Lorries: Accidents

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fatalities occurred as a result of collisions with the side or rear of a heavy goods vehicle in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [293686]

Paul Clark: The information requested is given in the following table:

Fatal casualties resulting from reported accidents involving side or rear collisions with heavy goods vehicles[1], Great Britain: 2004-08

	Number
2004	153
2005	189
2006	183
2007	176
2008	148

[1] All heavy goods vehicles over 3.5t

Lorries: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether heavy goods vehicles are required to be fitted with class V mirrors. [295012]

Paul Clark: All large goods vehicles, above 3.5 tonnes gross mass, first used after 1 January 2000, are required to be fitted with a class V (close proximity) mirror on the passenger side. There are some exemptions but only for those vehicles where the class V mirror cannot be fitted at least 2 metres from the ground.

Motor Vehicles: Lighting

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to publish the Government's response to the consultation on amending the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations, which closed on 9 October 2008. [295492]

Paul Clark: The response to the consultation will be published at the same time as the statutory instrument amending the regulations is laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the end of the year.

Motor Vehicles: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many domestic vehicles in each vehicle excise duty band were registered to addresses in York in the latest period for which figures are available. [295221]

Paul Clark: The following table provides the total number of privately owned cars and light vans that were licensed on the 30 June, 2009 in the City of York council.

Cars that were first registered before 1 March 2001 have their vehicle excise duty band based on engine size. Cars that have been first registered since this date have their vehicle excise duty band based on CO_2 emissions.

As some vans (light goods vehicles weighing no more than 3,500 kilograms) may be used for domestic purposes, all privately owned vans registered in the City of York council have been included in the table.

Details on the vehicle excise duty rates application to each band are available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/HowToTaxYourVehicle/DG_10012524

		Percentage of total private cars	
Tax band (CO_2 emission g/km^2)	*Number in City of York*	*City of York*	*Great Britain*
Vehicles registered on or after 1 March 2001			
Band A: Up to 100	23	0.0	0.0
Band B: 101-110	620	0.8	0.8
Band C: 111-120	1,486	2.0	1.9
Band D: 121-130	1,716	2.3	1.9
Band E: 131-140	6,274	8.3	7.2
Band F: 141-150	7,948	10.6	9.4
Band G: 151-165	12,003	15.9	13.7
Band H: 166-175	5,468	7.3	5.9
Band I: 176-185	4,293	5.7	4.7
Band J: 186-200	4,210	5.6	5.3
Post-2006 Band K: 201-225[1]	3,442	4.6	4.5
Post-2006 Band L: 226-255[1]	369	0.5	0.5
Post-2006 Band M: Over 255[1]	384	0.5	0.6
Pre-2006 Band K: Over 201[2]	2,424	3.2	4.0
Unknown tax band	592	0.8	3.2
Vehicles registered before 1 March 2001			
Engine size under 1,549 cc	9,183	12.2	12.6
Engine size 1,549 cc or over	13,462	17.9	20.8
Private cars that are exempt from vehicle excise duty	1,416	1.9	3.2
Total private cars	75,313	100	100
Private motorcycles, mopeds and scooters	5,157	n/a	n/a
Private light goods vehicles[3]	3,967	n/a	n/a

[1] Applies to cars first registered on or after 23 March 2006
[2] Applies to cars first registered before 23 March 2006
[3] Goods vehicles weighing no more than 3,500 kg

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Mr. Cox: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that adequate numbers of motorcycle practical test centres are available to those living in rural areas in the South West. [294591]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) plans to offer the off-road practical motorcycling test from five Multi-Purpose Test Centres (MPTCs) in the south west: in Redruth, Taunton, Plymouth, Exeter, and Bristol. MPTCs are already fully operational in three of these areas, at Plymouth, Exeter and Bristol and DSA is in negotiation with private developers and local planning authorities regarding the provision at Taunton and Redruth.

In the meantime temporary Module 1 facilities have been provided at existing Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) test stations in Camborne and Taunton. The operational requirements of VOSA and the need to avoid any conflict between motorcycle candidates and lorries mean that these two facilities are open for Module 1 testing only at weekends.

Damage to the tarmac at the VOSA site in Taunton has resulted in the temporary suspension of Module 1 testing there but we expect that testing will resume in mid-November 2009.

DSA offers the practical on-road part of the motorcycling test from eight driving test centres in addition to the three operational MPTCs. These are at Barnstaple, Bodmin, Camborne, Launceston, Penzance, Taunton, Yeovil and Weston-Super-Mare.

Official Cars: Working Hours

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the operation of the European Working Time Directive on the Government Car Service; and if he will make a statement. [294268]

Paul Clark: Changes to the Government Car Service which came into effect on 12 October 2009, will reduce the cost to the taxpayer. Under the new system, drivers work a single daily shift of 10 hours. Ministers continue to have one dedicated driver (apart from those in the high security category), but any out-of-hours ministerial driving is met, on demand, by the Government Car and Despatch Agency's low carbon taxi service. This is a better deal for taxpayers than the previous arrangements.

Railways: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding is available for Bournemouth borough council to apply for in order to develop a light railway system. [295168]

Mr. Khan: If Bournemouth borough council decided to promote a light rail scheme, it would need to obtain the South West region's agreement to prioritise the scheme for funding within its Regional Funding Allocation.

If the Region decided to prioritise the proposed scheme for funding then the council would then need to submit, at the appropriate time, a detailed Major Scheme Business Case for the proposed scheme, in line with current guidance, for consideration and assessment by the Department for Transport.

Alternatively, the council could seek funding from its own or through third party sources.

Roads: Accidents

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average annual cost to the economy of *(a)* road traffic accidents, *(b)* road traffic accidents resulting in a casualty and *(c)* road traffic accidents resulting in a fatality in the last five years. [293685]

Paul Clark: The latest figures on the annual value of prevention of *(a)* road traffic accidents, *(b)* road traffic accidents resulting in a casualty and *(c)* road traffic accidents resulting in a fatality are published in Reported Road Casualties Great Britain (RRCGB): 2008 Annual Report on page 28, Table 2c. Copies of the Report have been deposited in the House Library and are also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/

Annual cost figures for previous years are available in Road Casualties Great Britain (RCGB) annual reports for the corresponding years, available from the same sources.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic collisions involved vehicles diverted on rural A-roads as a result of motorway closures in the latest period for which figures are available. [294713]

Chris Mole: The information requested is not held by the Department for Transport. The responsibility for rural A roads lies with the relevant local authorities.

Roads: Freight

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what his policy is on the use of road haulage in place of rail haulage for movement of bulk materials for rail infrastructure works; [294746]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the environmental impact of *(a)* road and *(b)* rail haulage for movement of bulk materials for rail infrastructure works; [294747]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with Network Rail on the merits of *(a)* road and *(b)* rail haulage for movement of bulk materials for rail infrastructure works. [294748]

Chris Mole: The movement of bulk materials for rail infrastructure works is an operational matter for Network Rail.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many new diesel trains the Secretary of State intends to procure; and when the *(a)* first and *(b)* last of these orders are likely to be (i) placed and (ii) delivered. [295252]

Chris Mole: On 23 July the Government announced the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea, and the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willows.

This electrification programme radically affects the requirements for rolling stock over the next decade. As a result, the previously planned procurement by the Department for Transport of new diesel multiple units has been superseded. We will publish an updated rolling stock plan, taking account of these changes, in the autumn.

As part of the Intercity Express Programme, the Department is procuring new electric and bi-mode (electric and diesel) Super Express Trains to operate services on the East Coast Main Line and the Great Western Main Line. Bi-mode trains utilise the electric wires where available and continue beyond the wires using the diesel engine. An announcement on the placing of orders for Super Express Trains will be made in due course.

Transport: Horses

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will seek to exempt recreational drivers of horse transporters of greater than 7.5 tonnes gross weight from the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006; and if he will make a statement. [295316]

Paul Clark: Exemptions beyond those already set out in Regulation (EC) 561/2006 may only be granted in "exceptional circumstances". We therefore see little prospect of the European Commission agreeing to a UK request to exempt recreational drivers of horseboxes over 7.5 tonnes.

It should still be possible for those in full-time employment who drive large horseboxes recreationally to schedule a reduced weekly rest period of 24 hours immediately before the equestrian event in question, or in between driving to and from the event (i.e. at the event itself) without the need for a derogation.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment the Attorney-General's Office has made of the effectiveness of the merger of the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and the Crown Prosecution Service. [295043]

The Solicitor-General: As part of creating a new public prosecution service, the merger is progressing to schedule and by the summer of 2010 the two organisations will be fully integrated. The Attorney-General's Office is very closely involved in the governance arrangements for the merger. A recent Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review found that the merger is:

> "being conducted to a very high standard, that delivery to date has been strong and the likelihood of the merger programme delivering successfully is very high."

Crown Prosecution Service: Temporary Employment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Solicitor-General how many agency staff were employed by the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last five years; and in what capacity they were employed. [293615]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is not recorded centrally by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). It could be obtained only by the extraction of every contract for each temporary member of staff employed over the last five years, and would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9). Agency staff are employed in a variety of roles including administration, casework and other support roles to cover for staff absences and peaks in workload.

Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Solicitor-General what plans the Government have for developing the role of the community prosecutor referred to in Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice. [295044]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is testing the Community Prosecutor approach over a 12-month period from June 2009 in 49 pathfinder locations. The approach will be evaluated during the testing period, with plans for national roll-out to be developed thereafter.

The development of a Community Prosecutor approach is a major new initiative for the CPS, one which brings together work which is already happening in many CPS areas, together with new ideas about how modern prosecutors should engage with communities. The initiative will allow the CPS to work together with the police and our other partners to make communities safer and raise public confidence in the services we provide.

The pathfinder locations are testing three strands to the Community Prosecutor approach, which are:

enabling prosecutors to make more 'community-aware casework decisions;

greater CPS involvement in 'problem-solving' of local crime and disorder priorities; and

increased CPS visibility to communities and other agencies responding to local crime and disorder concerns.

The Community Prosecutor approach is one of the proposals contained in the 'Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice' Green Paper launched on 29 April 2009.

Equality

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will consider the recommendations of the report by the Fawcett Society, Corporate Sexism-the sex industry's infiltration of the modern workplace. [295172]

The Solicitor-General: The Government are committed to ensuring that all workplaces are free from discrimination. The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 provides protection from sex discrimination and harassment across a range of areas, including in employment. The Equality Bill currently going through Parliament will strengthen and simplify existing equality law.

I was very interested to learn about the findings in the Fawcett Society's recent report, "Corporate Sexism—the Sex Industry's Infiltration of the Modern Workplace." Research like the Fawcett report illustrate that although we have made significant progress in tackling inequality in the workplace, there is still more work to be done.

Following the report's launch, the Minister for Women and Equality wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer raising the issue of tax relief on discrete receipts from lap-dancing establishments.

Through the Policing and Crime Bill, currently before Parliament, we will give greater powers to local authorities and local communities to control the opening and regulation of lap-dancing clubs. This means lap-dancing clubs will no longer be licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 but will be licensed as 'sex establishments'.

The Government will continue to work with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), as well as with employers, to ensure enforcement of the Sex Discrimination Act and to promote equality in the workplace.

Euthanasia

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Solicitor-General what the process will be for implementation of the Director of Public Prosecutions' policy on assisted suicide after the conclusion and the public consultation on the interim policy. [295045]

The Solicitor-General: The public consultation on the CPS interim policy on cases of assisted suicide will close on 16 December 2009. Thereafter the Director and his team will carefully consider all of the responses received to assess whether the policy should be amended, and if so how. The Director then intends to publish a summary of the responses received and issue the finalized policy by 10 March 2010.

Homophobia: Prosecutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been brought for the offence of hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation under Part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986 as amended by Schedule 16 to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008; and how many convictions have resulted. [295852]

The Solicitor-General: No prosecutions for this offence have yet been brought as the offence is not yet in force. The Government intend to bring it into force as soon as possible.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Government is taking to *(a)* increase rates of the prosecution of rape and *(b)* support victims of rape. [295046]

The Solicitor-General: There has been significant progress in tackling rape, for example, reports of rape have more than doubled between 1997 and 2007. However, conviction rates remain low.

To address this, the Government have announced the immediate setting up of a review, led by Baroness Stern, to identify how the handling of rape complaints and conviction rates can be improved. As well as examining the response of the public authorities to reports of rape and exploring ways in which the attrition rate can be reduced, the review will also consider how to improve victim satisfaction. It will be assisted by the valuable work on victims' experience being led by Sara Payne, the Victims' Champion.

A separate Government initiative to improve support for victims will increase the number of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) to ensure that there is at least one in every police force area.

To drive up the quality of police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) performance in handling reports of rape, a team with members drawn from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the CPS is visiting police forces and CPS areas, sharing good practice and promoting increased effectiveness and a consistent approach.

Religious Hatred: Prosecutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been brought for the offence of incitement to religious hatred under Part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986 as amended by the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006; and how many convictions have resulted. [295749]

The Solicitor-General: To date one prosecution has been brought but has not concluded: a person has been charged and a trial date has yet to be fixed.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England has spent per capita on *(a)* capital projects and *(b)* revenue funding in (i) Leeds and (ii) West Yorkshire in each year since 2001. [295354]

Mr. Simon: Arts Council England has supplied the figures in the table. The figures represent its total funding, awarded in £000, either on a revenue or capital basis to organisations or individuals based (by post code) in Leeds and West Yorkshire.

LA/capital/revenue	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Leeds								
Lottery capital	625	5,589	—	19,600	—	—	—	—
Lottery revenue	1,585	941	917	1,255	1,782	1,984	993	1,529
Grant in aid revenue	10,060	11,163	11,901	13,511	14,115	15,220	15,840	16,290
Total	12,270	17,694	12,818	34,366	15,897	17,204	16,833	17,819

£k/capital/revenue	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
West Yorkshire								
Lottery capital	3,162	5,589	6,487	19,600	—	—	—	—
Lottery revenue	3,439	2,100	2,867	7,181	3,797	4,654	2,157	2,825
Grant in aid revenue	11,864	13,181	14,181	16,207	17,059	18,298	19,035	20,198
Total	18,465	20,870	23,535	42,988	20,857	22,951	21,192	23,023

Bible: Anniversaries

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible in 2011. [294706]

Mr. Simon: The Department is not planning to mark this anniversary. However, the British Library plans to highlight the linguistic contribution of the King James Bible in its exhibition on the English language, scheduled for November 2010 to April 2011 in London. They plan to feature a first edition from 1611 as a star exhibit.

Broadcasting: Derbyshire

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding will be provided for broadcasting services in West Derbyshire as a result of proposals contained in the Digital Britain White Paper. [295871]

Mr. Simon: The Digital Britain White Paper proposes to sustain public service broadcasting across the UK. Digital Britain does not contain funding proposals for broadcasting services in individual constituencies.

Casinos

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1142-43W, on casinos, what assessment he has made of the progress made by each of the 16 licensing authorities which have won bids for either small or large casinos. [295064]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* I am aware that some of the 16 local authorities permitted to issue large and small casino premises licences are planning to invite applications for the new premises licences within the next few months. However, it remains the responsibility of the individual licensing authorities themselves as to when they announce their process and timetable for applications.

Cultural Heritage

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria his Department uses to determine whether to mark anniversaries of cultural and sporting events in the UK's national history. [294705]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not have set criteria to determine whether to mark sporting and cultural anniversaries.

English Heritage: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much English Heritage received in grant-in-aid funding from his Department *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* expressed in current prices in each year since 1997. [290767]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information requested is set out in the following table. These are audited outturn figures sourced from DCMS accounts:

		Cash terms (£000)	*Current prices (2008-09) (£000)*
Appropriation accounts	1997-98	105,183	136,295
	1998-99	102,404	129,956
	1999-2000	112,609	140,148
	2000-01	119,000	146,180
	2001-02	110,401	132,655
Resource accounts	2002-03	116,387	135,477
	2003-04	119,442	135,222
	2004-05	127,901	140,881
	2005-06	129,136	139,636
	2006-07	141,321	148,421
	2007-08	136,636	139,626
	2008-09	129,358	129,358

Government support for our historic buildings and sites is supplemented by significant funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations such as the National Trust.

As a result of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review English Heritage received a cash increase in resource GIA from £123.7 million in 2007-08 to £124.7 million in 2008-09. The table is based on the outturn of English Heritage draw-down against such allocations and includes capital spend and money rolled over through end of year flexibility.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the proceeds of the sale of the Tote will be provided to British horseracing. [294866]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* The Government's position remains that we will honour our commitment to return half of the net proceeds of any market sale of the Tote to racing, subject to the requirements of European state aid and competition rule. I am unable to disclose commercially confidential or sensitive information about the valuation of the Tote or prospective Government payments to agents.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1143-44W, on the Reserve Totalmeter Board, on what date his Department was informed of the decision taken on 23 September 2009 to include the Tote in the list of assets to be sold. [294938]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* The Department was aware of the decision in principle to include the Tote on the list of assets sold during a meeting on 23 September 2009.

Officials from the Department were present as well as Ministers.

Licensing Laws: Language

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1144W, on licensing laws: languages, in how many languages tests relating to obtaining a personal licence for the retail sale of alcohol can be taken in; and if he will amend his Department's criteria for accredited personal licence course providers to stipulate that examinations must be taken in English. [295065]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* Accredited licence course providers decide what languages tests can be taken in. I have no plans to make it a requirement that exams be taken in English only, not least as this would be contrary to the Department's Welsh language policy.

Listed Events Review

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to make an announcement on the Listed Events Review; and if he will make a statement. [295378]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I expect to receive shortly the report of the independent advisory panel on the future of listed events. In the light of its recommendations I shall reach my own preliminary conclusions and will consult further on these with the broadcasting authorities and affected rights holders, as required by the Broadcasting Act 1996, before reaching my final decisions.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account his Department has taken of the BBC's submission to the Listed Events Review. [295398]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I expect to receive shortly the panel's report and recommendations. The panel has had the benefit of the BBC's submissions in response to the consultation exercise. In the light of its recommendations I shall reach my own preliminary conclusions and will consult further on these with the broadcasting authorities and affected rights holders, as required by the Broadcasting Act 1996, before reaching my final decisions.

Local Press: Government Assistance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to introduce to provide assistance to regional news broadcasters. [294308]

Mr. Simon: The Digital Britain White Paper makes clear that sustainable nations' regional and local news is a priority. The Government have decided to secure the plural provision of this kind of content by awarding funding to news consortia that will have the scope to provide enhanced localness, provided in the Channel 3 broadcasting schedule to build on existing reach and access to audiences, as well as via multi-platform delivery.

Music: Public Participation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of adults who have *(a)* participated in musical activity and *(b)* attended a music event in each region in each of the last five years. [294750]

Mr. Simon: The information is as follows:

(a) Participation: proportion participating in music activities by Government office region (GOR)

Percentage

	Year 1	*Year 2*	*Year 3*	*Year 4*
North East	13.0	10.6	10.3	10.3
North West	12.1	11.6	12.3	10.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	13.0	12.4	12.0	11.2
East Midlands	15.5	13.4	13.3	11.5
West Midlands	11.9	13.0	11.9	10.9
East of England	15.6	13.6	16.2	14.7
London	17.6	14.2	15.6	12.8
South East	15.9	15.2	15.1	15.6
South West	15.4	15.2	16.6	14.6
Total	14.7	13.5	14.0	12.8

(b) Attendance: proportion attending music events by GOR

Percentage

	Year 1	*Year 2*	*Year 3*	*Year 4*
North East	41.4	42.3	39.0	39.8
North West	41.6	41.9	45.6	44.6

(b) Attendance: proportion attending music events by GOR

				Percentage
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Yorkshire and Humberside	40.3	41.3	43.0	40.5
East Midlands	45.1	43.9	47.3	42.1
West Midlands	42.0	41.2	44.4	40.5
East of England	40.9	51.8	50.6	50.6
London	42.8	39.0	41.6	42.3
South East	50.8	52.4	54.6	51.5
South West	40.0	48.1	49.1	47.0
Total	45.0	45.0	46.8	44.9

Note:
Year 1 = 2005-06 Year 2 = 2006-07 Year 3 = 2007-08 Year 4 = 2008-09
Source:
Taking Part survey, DCMS

The Taking Part survey was commissioned by DCMS and partner NDPBs in 2005 as a continuous annual survey. The fourth year of data, 2008-09, was released in August 2009.

National Lottery: Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the pro-rata full-time salary of the chief executive of each of the Lottery distributors was in 2008-09. [295321]

Mr. Simon: The requested information can be found in the annual reports and accounts for the public bodies concerned, copies of which are available from the House Library.

Pay Television

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to phase 3 of Ofcom's consultation on pay television; and if he will make a statement. [295351]

Mr. Simon: I have no plans to respond to Ofcom's 'Pay TV—phase 3 consultation' which closed on 18 September. Ofcom's Pay TV market investigation is a competition consideration and therefore is primarily a matter for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Sport England: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of Sport England's £10 million Sustainable Facilities Fund has been spent in 2009-10; and what projects have received such funding. [294785]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* Sport England's Sustainable Facilities Fund invests in modern community facility projects that are viable in the long term—partnerships between public, private and commercial organisations with sustainable revenue funding to maintain high standards of facility provision and customer service.

The fund invests close to £10 million a year of lottery and Exchequer money into innovative projects capable of transforming the places where we play or take part in sport as part of our aim to create a world-leading community sport system of clubs, coaches, facilities and volunteers.

Sport England has recently announced the first round of funding for seven awards through the Sustainable Facilities Fund, totalling £6,869,000. The details of these awards can be found in the following table. In addition to this, Sport England has invited a further four applicants to bid for stage two development awards, which will be announced later in the year.

Applicant	Project title	Grant (£)	Status	Funding	Region
Plymouth City Council	Plymouth Life Centre	1,999,000	Award	Exchequer	South West
Nottingham Trent University	Extension to 8 Sports Hall	700,000	Award	Exchequer	East Midlands
Northowram Community Sports and Activity Centre	Clubhouse	175,000	Award	Exchequer	Yorks
Paignton Community Sports College	Sports Hub	375,000	Award	Exchequer	South West
Burnage RFU	All Weather Pitch	120,000	Award	Exchequer	North West
Durham University	Maiden Castle Sports Centre	500,000	Award	Exchequer	North East
Manchester City Council	Regeneration Sportcity	3,000,000	Award	Lottery	North West

Swimming: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire have participated in the scheme for free swimming for people over 60 years old. [294760]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the total number of free swims that have taken place under the free swimming scheme by people aged 60 and over across the Derbyshire and North East Derbyshire areas in a given time period (April/May/June/Q1 total). This is not a measure of the total number of individual participants taking part in free swimming, as the Department does not hold these figures.

	Free swims: 60+			
Local authority name	*April*	*May*	*June*	*Q1 total*
Amber Valley	1,153	1,565	1,857	4,575
Bolsover	708	710	460	1,878
Chesterfield	1,734	2,048	2,474	6,256
Derby UA	1,928	2,008	1,998	5,934
Derbyshire Dales	949	1,587	2,297	4,833
Erewash	2,350	2,528	3,074	7,952
High Peak	2,022	2,026	5,021	9,069
North East Derbyshire	2,894	3,239	3,691	9,824
South Derbyshire	739	1,017	1,117	2,873
Total	14,477	16,728	21,989	53,194

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many children in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire have taken part in the scheme for free swimming for children under 16 years old. [294761]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows the total number of free swims that have taken place under the free swimming scheme by people aged 16 and under across the Derbyshire and North East Derbyshire areas in a given time period (April/May/June/Q1 total). This is not a measure of the total number of individual participants taking part in free swimming, as the Department does not hold these figures.

	Free swims: 16 and under			
Local authority name	*April*	*May*	*June*	*Q1 total*
Amber Valley	944	3,486	2,066	6,496
Bolsover	2,105	1,843	1,077	5,025
Chesterfield	7,075	9,126	7,976	24,177
Derby UA	7,337	9,433	8,037	24,807
Derbyshire Dales	2,774	2,468	2,426	7,668
Erewash	7,318	8,246	6,584	22,148
High Peak	5,347	4,197	9,782	19,326
North East Derbyshire	5,866	5,088	5,067	16,021
South Derbyshire	1,491	2,232	2,249	5,972
Total	40,257	46,119	45,264	131,640

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications there have been for funding from Pot 4 of his Department's funding for its free swimming initiative; and in respect of which swimming pools the applications have been received. [295319]

Mr. Bradshaw: Sport England has advised that they have received 173 eligible applications for funding in the second round (2010-11) of Pot 4 of the Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme.

The breakdown is as follows: 126 applications for funding for public swimming pools (DCMS allocated funding), and 47 applications for pools on educational sites (DCSF allocated funding).

Video Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on the UK video games industry. [295296]

Mr. Simon: We have not carried out an assessment of the impact of the recession on the UK video games industry. However, industry evidence suggests that the UK games sector continues to demonstrate remarkable success with total sales of £4.034 billion in 2008, a rise of 23 per cent. from 2007.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the economic growth rate in the UK video games industry has been in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the likely rate of growth in 2009-10. [295297]

Mr. Simon: Accurate data on the video and computer games sector are not readily available to the Department, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though this will not deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

We do not project future trends of the markets but, according to industry figures, since 2004 the UK Video Games industry has experienced modest growth of around 4 per cent. per annum and this is projected to continue to 2011.

Source:

Oxford Economics 2008

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the contribution of the video games industry to the UK's gross domestic product in each of the last five years; and what the estimated contribution is for 2009-10. [295298]

Mr. Simon: Accurate data on the video and computer games sector are not readily available to the Department, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though it will not deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many people were employed in the UK video games industry in each of the last five years; [295299]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies in the UK video games industry in the last 12 months. [295300]

Mr. Simon: Accurate data on the video and computer games sector are not readily available to the Department, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though this will not deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

DCMS does not hold employment data of this kind.

DEFENCE

Service Justice System

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in developing governance arrangements for the operation of each part of the Service Justice System; and what external stakeholder groups he has identified to participate in such arrangements. [295197]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Arrangements for the governance of the whole Service justice system were approved by Ministers in December 2007. The purpose of governance is to set direction, provide oversight and facilitate cooperation between stakeholders within and outside the Ministry of Defence. These functions are undertaken by the Service Justice Board and a supporting executive group. Stakeholders outside the Ministry of Defence include the Attorney-General's Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Judge Advocate General.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of C Company, 2 Rifles were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured during the Company's most recent tour in Helmand province. [295181]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since May 2009 there have been 13 members of 2nd Battalion The Rifles killed in Afghanistan.

Between April and September 2009 14 members of 2nd Battalion The Rifles have been very seriously injured or seriously injured. We do not publish data on less severe injuries, so this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which EU military operations UK military personnel are serving; and how many are serving in each operation. [295170]

Bill Rammell: The UK contributes military personnel to two EU operations: protection of World Food Programme and vulnerable shipping off the horn of Africa (Operation Atalanta) and peace-keeping in Bosnia (Operation Althea). At present the UK contributes 51 military personnel to Operation Atalanta and 10 military personnel to Operation Althea.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ex-service personnel have made claims in the last 30 years for compensation for adverse health effects arising from exposure to chemicals during their service in Canada between 1960 and 1980; and in how many such cases compensation was paid. [294782]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The War Pension Scheme (WPS) provides no-fault compensation for all former Service Personnel where illness, injury or death is caused by service before 6 April 2005.

Although the War Pension Computer System contains details of medical conditions relating to claims for War Disablement Pensions, details of the specific causes of these medical conditions are not recorded. The current system was implemented in 1995 and claims prior to this date are not held electronically. The manual search and assessment of many thousands of files would be required to provide the information requested and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have *(a)* tested positive for drugs and *(b)* been dismissed from the service for drug taking in the last three years. [295084]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table indicates the number of armed forces personnel who have tested positive for drugs during a Compulsory Drug Test (CDT) and those who have been dismissed from the service for drug offences including positive CDT test results in the last three full years.

	Positive CDT tests	*Discharges due to drug offences*
2008	1,117	806
2007	857	840
2006	912	840

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties have been leased by Defence Estates to meet otherwise unfulfilled needs using funds within its own resources in each year since its formation; and if he will make a statement. [295198]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I assume the hon. Member is referring to service accommodation.

Substitute Service Family Accommodation (SSFA) and Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) is used to meet our obligation to house entitled service personnel and their families in cases where no service accommodation is available.

With regards to SSFA, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W. Updated figures are provided in the table.

	Number of properties taken on during year	*Total number of properties rented during year*
2007 (updated to 31 December 2007)	636	1,919
2008	966	2,173
2009 (to 22 October 2009)	659	2,155

SSSA is commonly granted where service personnel are working at MOD sites where little or no Single Living Accommodation is available. Wherever possible DE uses vacant SFA to meet demands for SLA. SSSA properties may be used to accommodate more than one single serviceman. Figures for SSSA from 2003 are provided in the table.

	Number of properties taken on during year	*Total number of properties rented during year*
2003	1,747	4,405
2004	1,794	5,002
2005	1,793	5,243
2006	2,001	5,668
2007	2,147	6,121
2008	2,271	6,658
2009 (to 22 October 2009)	2,021	6,768

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of properties of Defence Estates' stock have been classified as *(a)* Condition 3 and *(b)* Condition 4 in each year since the formation of Defence Estates; and if he will make a statement. [295199]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 36W.

For the latest number of Service Family Accommodation in England and Wales at Standard 3 and 4, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 873W, to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson).

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the maintenance and repair of service accommodation. [295589]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Defence Estates works closely with all of its repair and maintenance contractors to ensure that levels of service continually improves and that repair jobs are completed within required timescales and to an acceptable standard of workmanship.

As an example, in England and Wales, to improve the maintenance and repair of service accommodation, personal digital assistants (PDA) will be introduced to allow better access to information about the property, including details of previous jobs. Among other benefits, this should ensure the right trade goes to the right job. We also aim to ensure better management of the supply chain to ensure there is a focus on getting repairs right first time.

All SFA locations are to be assigned to a specified DE Housing Officer and MHS Technical Officer who will work closely to provide a cohesive approach to enhanced service delivery. They will act as dedicated focal points for local commanders and will be responsible for holding housing clinics, getting to know families and resolving everyday problems.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on mental health care services in each year since 2001. [295086]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The majority of mental healthcare for service personnel is provided through MOD's 15 military-run Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) in the UK (with additional centres in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar), which have since 2004 provided out-patient mental healthcare for members of the armed forces. Responsibility for their individual management is shared between the single service commands, with oversight from the Joint Medical Command. However, each service funds its respective DCMHs differently. Owing to the number of different internal budgets to which costs would be attributable, any detailed analysis of DCMH finances would therefore incur disproportionate costs.

In-patient care, when necessary, is provided in specialised psychiatric units under contract with an external provider. Between April 2004 and March 2009, this was provided by the Priory Group, and costs in each financial year are contained in the following table:

	Contract value (£ million)
1 December 2003-31 March 2004	0.4
1 April 2004-31 March 2005	4.2
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	4.5
1 April 2006-31 March 2007	3.4
1 April 2007-31 March 2008	3.9
1 April 2008-31 March 2009	3.3

These figures take into account the cost of assessing patients as well as any treatment programmes provided; the individual care needs of each patient will vary depending on their particular medical circumstances. They also include services provided by the Priory Group between 1 December 2003 and April 2004 prior to the formal contract start date.

The contract with the Priory Group has been replaced by a new one, awarded in November 2008 following open competition, with a partnership of seven NHS trusts led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust. Costs for its first full 12 months of operation will be available in spring 2010.

Prior to April 2004, in-patient care was provided at MOD's Duchess of Kent Psychiatric Hospital at Catterick. Full historic costs back to 2001 are not available, although costs in its final year of operation (2002-03) were some £10 million.

Armed Forces: Training

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the training budget for the *(a)* Territorial Army, *(b)* University Officer Training Corps and *(c)* Cadet Force is in 2009-10. [293152]

Bill Rammell: This year is very challenging in resource terms, and success in Afghanistan must take priority. As such the Army has directed that the Regular Forces and the reserves must focus available resources on supporting the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan, which means reducing activity levels elsewhere. The overall budget for the Territorial Army, which is inclusive of the University Officer Training Corps, has been reduced by £43 million from £139 million. The funding for the Army Cadet Force has been reduced by £4 million from £29 million.

Forecast outturn for the Air Cadet Organisation and Navy Command Cadets for the current financial year is £20.6 million and £11 million respectively

The output of the Territorial Army, University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) and Cadet Forces is focused on training and therefore all activity is either directly or indirectly attributable to planning, organising or conducting training.

British Forces Post Office

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the future of the British Forces Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [295253]

Bill Rammell: The information was published in Defence Internal Brief, Serial 2009DIB/37 dated 6 October 2009, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Defence Board

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS, on defence acquisition (independent review), who the members of the new sub-committee of the Defence Board are; and if he will make a statement. [295775]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As recommended in Bernard Gray's recent report on Defence Acquisition, the members of the new Defence board sub-committee on equipment are the Permanent Under Secretary, the Chief of the Defence Staff, the 2nd Permanent Under Secretary, the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff and the Director-General Finance. The sub-committee is charged with determining, for agreement by the Defence board and Ministers, an equipment plan that is aligned with strategy, affordable and realistic.

Defence Medical Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many compensation claims have been submitted by armed forces personnel in respect of malpractice on the part of Defence Medical Services; how many such claims were upheld; and how much was paid out against such claims in each year. [295645]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of new clinical negligence compensation claims is not recorded on the Department's claims database in a format that differentiates between service personnel, service dependants and civilian cases. The number of claims upheld and the amount of compensation, including legal costs, paid out each year to service personnel is identifiable. The figures are shown in the following table. Information relating to clinical negligence can be found in the Department's Claims Annual Report which has been issued each year since 1997-98, a copy of which is held in the Libraries of the Houses.

	All new clinical negligence claims received	*Service personnel claims upheld*	*Compensation/legal costs (£ million)*
1997-98	308	21	0.4
1998-99	255	51	2.3
1999-2000	147	49	2.5
2000-01	128	49	6.1
2001-02	142	39	0.8
2002-03	119	39	3.9
2003-04	92	24	2.6
2004-05	86	17	3.3
2005-06	69	21	3.8
2006-07	67	14	1.5
2007-08	86	10	2.9
2008-09	55	17	5.3

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* actual strength, *(b)* establishment and *(c)* percentage difference between establishment and actual strength is of each speciality of qualified medical personnel (a) in the Army and (b) tri-service. [295646]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Manning statistics for the Defence Medical Services are updated twice a year, in April and October. The October 2009 figures are currently being collated, and verified figures should be available by the end of November. I will place these figures in the Library of the House.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS, on defence acquisition (independent review), what arrangements he plans to make to provide greater visibility of project management costs in the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation to the Capability Sponsor in head office; and if he will make a statement. [295776]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We are currently reviewing how best to provide greater visibility of project management costs, and this will be addressed as part of the Strategy for Acquisition Reform to be published in the new year.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS, on defence acquisition (independent review), what steps he plans to take *(a)* to improve the way in which projects in the equipment plan are costed, *(b)* to use better and more sophisticated techniques applied more consistently and *(c)* to ensure that investment decisions are based on the most reliable forecasts; and if he will make a statement. [295777]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We are examining options to improve our approach to costing, and will be addressing this as part of the Strategy for Acquisition Reform to be published in the new year.

Departmental Energy

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has a strategy for voltage optimisation on its estimate. [295276]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are currently no plans to roll out voltage optimisation across the whole of the defence estate. However, voltage optimisation technology is currently being trialled at Lympstone. This work will inform our future approach to wider application of the technology across our estate.

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 140, on departmental procurement, (1) how many of the recommendations of the Glover Report on Accelerating the SME engine his Department has implemented; [294906]

(2) what target date his Department has set for implementation of all the key recommendations of the Glover Report on Accelerating the SME engine. [294907]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Glover Report recommendations relate to the adoption of a number of public procurement related measures across Government and their implementation is being led by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The OGC, BIS and other Government departments, including local government, are working towards completing the implementation of each of the recommendations as soon as possible and within the timescales, where given, within the report.

Departmental Publicity

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on information campaigns and advertising in each year since 1997. [294063]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The majority of information campaigns and advertising conducted by the Ministry of Defence are part of the drive to recruit the best personnel to the armed forces and civil service. In addition the Department may promote other initiatives such as armed forces day.

Spend relating to these activities, which is available centrally, is shown in the following table. The figures given include creative and production costs, as well as media spend.

	Spend (£ million)
2004-05	23.8
2005-06	23.5
2006-07	21.0
2007-08	33.6
2008-09	37.4

Figures are not available prior to FY 2004-05 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for 2009-10 are not yet available.

Departmental Secondment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which staff have been seconded to his Department from the private sector since 2000, stating in each case the secondee's *(a)* name, *(b)* company, *(c)* position within his Department and *(d)* start and end date of secondment. [295103]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There have been 76 individuals seconded into the MOD since the beginning of 2000. A breakdown of the respective start and end dates of the secondments, together with reasons for joining the department is provided in the following table.

Staff seconded into the MOD from the private sector since 2000

Identifier	*Reason for joining*	*Start date*	*End date*
Individual 1	Loan/secondment into MOD	12 January 2000	24 May 2004
Individual 2	Loan/secondment into MOD	3 May 2000	To date
Individual 3	Loan/secondment into MOD	9 November 2000	9 November 2009
Individual 4	Loan/secondment into MOD	8 May 2001	1 June 2005
Individual 5	Loan/secondment into MOD	25 June 2001	1 September 2003
Individual 6	Loan/secondment into MOD	2 January 2002	24 September 2003
Individual 7	Loan/secondment into MOD	28 January 2002	1 February 2005
Individual 8	Loan/secondment into MOD	15 April 2002	31 July 2007
Individual 9	Loan/secondment into MOD	1 July 2002	To date
Individual 10	Loan/secondment into MOD	27 August 2002	23 August 2005
Individual 11	Loan/secondment into MOD	5 September 2002	31 December 2006
Individual 12	Loan/secondment into MOD	1 October 2002	1 October 2005
Individual 13	Loan/secondment into MOD	6 February 2003	24 March 2005
Individual 14	Loan/secondment into MOD	9 March 2003	4 July 2005
Individual 15	Loan/secondment into MOD	18 March 2003	31 March 2006
Individual 16	Loan/secondment into MOD	2 June 2003	8 December 2007
Individual 17	Loan/secondment into MOD	2 June 2003	13 June 2005
Individual 18	Loan/secondment into MOD	1 September 2003	1 July 2006
Individual 19	Loan/secondment into MOD	18 September 2003	8 December 2004
Individual 20	Loan/secondment into MOD	22 September 2003	14 October 2005
Individual 21	Loan/secondment into MOD	27 September 2003	4 May 2009
Individual 22	Loan/secondment into MOD	20 January 2004	1 June 2005
Individual 23	Loan/secondment into MOD	5 April 2004	20 September 2008

Staff seconded into the MOD from the private sector since 2000

Identifier	*Reason for joining*	*Start date*	*End date*
Individual 24	Loan/secondment into MOD	19 April 2004	8 January 2005
Individual 25	Loan/secondment into MOD	24 May 2004	22 November 2004
Individual 26	Loan/secondment into MOD	4 October 2004	To date
Individual 27	Loan/secondment into MOD	22 November 2004	27 July 2009
Individual 28	Loan/secondment into MOD	10 January 2005	1 February 2006
Individual 29	Loan/secondment into MOD	7 February 2005	13 October 2007
Individual 30	Loan/secondment into MOD	21 February 2005	1 March 2008
Individual 31	Loan/secondment into MOD	29 March 2005	31 August 2005
Individual 32	Loan/secondment into MOD	9 May 2005	1 May 2008
Individual 33	Loan/secondment into MOD	6 June 2005	28 September 2007
Individual 34	Loan/secondment into MOD	4 July 2005	1 August 2005
Individual 35	Loan/secondment into MOD	13 August 2005	30 June 2007
Individual 36	Loan/secondment into MOD	12 September 2005	15 September 2007
Individual 37	Loan/secondment into MOD	19 September 2005	26 September 2007
Individual 38	Loan/secondment into MOD	28 November 2005	20 April 2009
Individual 39	Loan/secondment into MOD	5 December 2005	4 December 2007
Individual 40	Loan/secondment into MOD	8 December 2005	20 October 2007
Individual 41	Loan/secondment into MOD	19 December 2005	To date
Individual 42	Loan/secondment into MOD	15 May 2006	1 October 2007
Individual 43	Loan/secondment into MOD	17 July 2006	To date
Individual 44	Loan/secondment into MOD	21 July 2006	31 May 2008
Individual 45	Loan/secondment into MOD	30 October 2006	To date
Individual 46	Loan/secondment into MOD	6 November 2006	1 April 2008
Individual 47	Loan/secondment into MOD	1 February 2007	To date
Individual 48	Loan/secondment into MOD	1 February 2007	To date
Individual 49	Loan/secondment into MOD	1 February 2007	To date
Individual 50	Loan/secondment into MOD	1 February 2007	To date
Individual 51	Loan/secondment into MOD	26 February 2007	26 July 2008
Individual 52	Loan/secondment into MOD	3 April 2007	To date
Individual 53	Loan/secondment into MOD	4 June 2007	To date
Individual 54	Loan/secondment into MOD	8 August 2007	22 January 2008
Individual 55	Loan/secondment into MOD	3 September 2007	To date
Individual 56	Loan/secondment into MOD	17 September 2007	23 October 2008
Individual 57	Loan/secondment into MOD	21 November 2007	4 August 2008
Individual 58	Loan/secondment into MOD	10 December 2007	To date
Individual 59	Interchange private sector	4 February 2008	To date
Individual 60	Interchange private sector	17 March 2008	To date
Individual 61	Interchange private sector	21 April 2008	To date
Individual 62	Non-Executive Director	16 July 2008	To date
Individual 63	Non-Executive Director	16 July 2008	To date
Individual 64	Interchange private sector	1 September 2008	To date
Individual 65	Non-Executive Director	16 October 2008	To date
Individual 66	Interchange private sector	10 November 2008	26 January 2009
Individual 67	Interchange private sector	23 March 2009	14 May 2009
Individual 68	Interchange private sector	30 March 2009	To date
Individual 69	Interchange private sector	16 June 2009	To date
Individual 70	Interchange private sector	1 July 2009	To date
Individual 71	Non-Executive Director	15 July 2009	To date
Individual 72	Non-Executive Director	21 July 2009	To date
Individual 73	Non-Executive Director	20 August 2009	To date
Individual 74	Non-Executive Director	20 August 2009	To date
Individual 75	Non-Executive Director	20 August 2009	To date
Individual 76	Non-Executive Director	24 August 2009	To date

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which staff from his Department have been seconded to the defence industry since 2000, stating in each case the secondee's *(a)* name, *(b)* position/rank, *(c)* company, *(d)* start and end date of secondment and *(e)* whether the person concerned is still employed by his Department. [295104]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There have been 72 individuals seconded out of the MOD to the private sector since the beginning of 2000. We do not record whether these secondments are to companies specifically within the defence industry, but the following table provides a breakdown of all instances by position/rank, start/end dates and whether still employed (for pay purposes). I have not included the names of individuals as this would break the Data Protection Act 1998.

Staff seconded out to the private sector

Identifier	*Position/rank*	*Reason*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Still employed (for pay purposes)*
Individual 1	D	Outside Employment	31 July 2000	1 August 2003	No
Individual 2	C2	Outside Employment	3 November 2000	13 June 2005	Yes
Individual 3	C2	Outside Employment	4 January 2001	5 January 2004	Yes
Individual 4	E1	Outside Employment	2 February 2001	4 February 2003	No
Individual 5	E2	Outside Employment	30 September 2001	23 February 2005	No
Individual 6	E2	Outside Employment	14 December 2001	8 June 2004	No
Individual 7	E1	Outside Employment	14 December 2001	1 April 2005	No
Individual 8	E1	Outside Employment	2 January 2002	3 January 2005	No
Individual 9	D	Outside Employment	11 April 2002	5 May 2003	No
Individual 10	B2	Outside Employment	14 May 2002	To Date	No
Individual 11	E1	Outside Employment	24 June 2002	15 January 2007	No
Individual 12	B1	Interchange with Industry	1 July 2002	4 July 2005	Yes
Individual 13	D	Outside Employment	27 August 2002	26 August 2005	No
Individual 14	E2	Outside Employment	1 October 2002	To Date	No
Individual 15	E2	Outside Employment	17 October 2002	2 August 2006	No
Individual 16	E2	Outside Employment	4 February 2003	13 August 2003	Yes
Individual 17	Nurse Grade F	Outside Employment	4 February 2003	4 October 2003	Yes
Individual 18	E2	Outside Employment	10 February 2003	22 July 2003	Yes
Individual 19	E1	Outside Employment	10 February 2003	4 September 2003	No
Individual 22	Nurse Grade E	Outside Employment	17 February 2003	10 June 2003	Yes
Individual 20	D	Outside Employment	17 February 2003	19 August 2003	Yes
Individual 21	D	Outside Employment	17 February 2003	28 August 2003	No
Individual 23	E2	Outside Employment	17 February 2003	1 September 2003	Yes
Individual 24	E1	Outside Employment	18 February 2003	23 July 2003	Yes
Individual 26	E1	Outside Employment	19 February 2003	24 February 2003	No
Individual 25	C2	Outside Employment	19 February 2003	21 August 2003	Yes
Individual 27	D	Outside Employment	19 February 2003	19 September 2003	Yes
Individual 28	D	Outside Employment	19 February 2003	19 February 2004	Yes
Individual 29	E1	Outside Employment	20 February 2003	5 August 2003	Yes
Individual 30	C1	Outside Employment	22 February 2003	10 February 2004	Yes
Individual 31	E2	Outside Employment	23 February 2003	21 August 2003	Yes
Individual 32	D	Outside Employment	24 February 2003	9 June 2003	Yes
Individual 33	D	Outside Employment	26 February 2003	9 June 2003	No
Individual 34	E1	Outside Employment	27 February 2003	5 June 2003	Yes
individual 35	D	Outside Employment	1 March 2003	16 June 2003	Yes
Individual 36	D	Outside Employment	18 March 2003	4 August 2003	No
Individual 37	C2	Outside Employment	1 April 2003	14 July 2003	No
Individual 38	C1	Interchange with Industry	1 May 2003	23 February 2004	Yes
Individual 39	C1	Outside Employment	30 May 2003	15 February 2004	Yes
Individual 40	D	Outside Employment	9 June 2003	7 November 2003	Yes
Individual 41	C1	Outside Employment	11 June 2003	23 February 2004	Yes
Individual 42	E2	Outside Employment	17 June 2003	9 January 2004	Yes
Individual 43	E2	Outside Employment	18 June 2003	16 January 2004	Yes
Individual 44	E1	Outside Employment	26 June 2003	19 September 2003	No
Individual 45	E2	Outside Employment	29 June 2003	20 January 2004	Yes
Individual 47	E2	Outside Employment	2 July 2003	1 January 2004	Yes
Individual 46	E1	Outside Employment	2 July 2003	8 January 2004	Yes
Individual 48	C2	Outside Employment	10 November 2003	10 February 2004	No
Individual 49	C1	Outside Employment	5 January 2004	2 August 2004	No
Individual 50	E1	Outside Employment	22 March 2004	4 February 2005	Yes
Individual 51	B1	Interchange with Industry	30 April 2004	24 April 2008	No
Individual 52	C1	Interchange with Industry	10 May 2004	8 May 2006	Yes
Individual 53	Record Reviewer	Outside Employment	28 July 2004	25 September 2004	Yes
Individual 54	C1	Outside Employment	16 September 2004	4 October 2004	Yes
Individual 55	D	Outside Employment	18 October 2004	8 November 2004	No
Individual 56	C1	Outside Employment	1 June 2005	26 June 2006	Yes
Individual 53	Record Reviewer	Outside Employment	11 July 2005	20 August 2005	Yes
Individual 57	E1	Outside Employment	1 November 2005	25 January 2006	No
Individual 58	Queen Vict Schl Prin Teacher	Interchange Private Sector	18 August 2008	27 June 2009	Yes
Individual 59	B2	Interchange Private Sector	1 November 2008	To Date	Yes
Individual 60	B2	Interchange Private Sector	10 November 2008	To Date	Yes
Individual 61	B2	Interchange Private Sector	24 November 2008	To Date	Yes

Staff seconded out to the private sector

Identifier	*Position/rank*	*Reason*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Still employed (for pay purposes)*
Individual 62	C1	Interchange Private Sector	15 December 2008	To Date	Yes
Individual 63	B1	Interchange Private Sector	5 January 2009	To Date	Yes
Individual 64	Physiothrpst Specialist	Interchange Private Sector	2 February 2009	To Date	Yes
Individual 65	C1	Interchange Private Sector	9 February 2009	To Date	No
Individual 66	C2	Interchange Private Sector	23 February 2009	7 September 2009	Yes
Individual 67	B2	Interchange Private Sector	8 June 2009	To Date	Yes
Individual 68	C1	Interchange Private Sector	27 July 2009	To Date	Yes
Individual 69	B2	Interchange Private Sector	3 August 2009	To Date	Yes
Individual 70	B1	Interchange Private Sector	1 September 2009	To Date	Yes
Individual 71	B1	Interchange Private Sector	14 September 2009	To Date	Yes

Departmental Training

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS, on defence acquisition (independent review), what steps he plans to take to accelerate the improvement of key skills in *(a)* the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation and *(b)* his Department's head office; and if he will make a statement. [295774]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We will be examining options for accelerating skills both in defence equipment and support and in MOD head office, and will be addressing this as part of the Strategy for Acquisition Reform to be published in the new year.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposed new *(a)* revenue streams and *(b)* opportunities to sell products and services his Department has discussed with the Met Office; and if he will make a statement. [295216]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As part of the Met Office's business planning, the development of new and innovative weather and climate services for both Government and commercial customers is being pursued, For example, the Met Office has recently launched new web services for the aviation and marine industries to help with operational decision-making. It has also identified potential for services to better support health care planning and delivery and to help society plan for and adapt to climate change.

Work is also under way on the next steps of the Operational Efficiency Programme review of the Met Office. This will examine, among other things, the potential to expand the Met Office's commercial activities and opportunities to develop specific services in some cases with private sector partners.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings have been held between representatives of his Department and representatives of nuclear test veterans to establish the boundaries of a possible settlement since June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [296050]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Discussions have been held and are still ongoing between the parties. However, in order to protect the Department's position grounds for appeal were lodged with the Court of Appeal on 12 October, which was the latest date allowed under the permission to do so granted by the High Court. It is important to note that this does not mean a formal end to the attempts to negotiate settlement.

Internal Investment Approvals Board

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the members of his Department's Internal Investment Approvals Board are. [295432]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Investment Approvals Board consists of the Chief Scientific Adviser (Chairman), the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, the Chief of Defence Materiel, the Director General Finance, the Director General Defence Commercial and the Director Central Legal Services.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister for Veterans expects to reply to the letter of 23 September 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay on British nuclear test veterans. [295466]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I responded to the hon. Member's letter on 20 October 2009.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from the Scottish Executive on arrangements for the Submarine Dismantling Project. [295333]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No representations have been received from the Scottish Executive on arrangements for the Submarine Dismantling Project.

Regular engagement with the Scottish Executive is maintained through the Submarine Dismantling Project Advisory Group and the Submarine Dismantling Project Steering Group. The Scottish Executive has also been invited to participate in the initial scoping phase, once initiated, of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Submarine Dismantling Project.

Strategic Defence Review

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any defence procurement projects have been *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* postponed pending a strategic defence review. [295433]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No defence procurement projects have been cancelled or postponed pending a strategic defence review.

Territorial Army

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken to ensure the eligibility of Territorial Army personnel for *(a)* annual bounty and *(b)* the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal following the reduction in Territorial Army training days. [293155]

Bill Rammell: In relation to the steps being taken to ensure opportunities remain for individuals to qualify for their bounty where they have not already done so, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1020-21W, to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster).

Given that opportunities will continue to exist for individuals to earn their bounty, eligibility for the Volunteers Reserve Service Medal should be unaffected by the reduction in TA training this year.

Territorial Army: Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the bounty payable to Territorial Army soldiers on completion of annual training requirements will be paid to such soldiers who do not undertake training owing to the withdrawal of training days. [295314]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1021W, to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster).

Territorial Army: Training

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which alternative cost-saving measures were considered before deciding to reduce Territorial Army training. [293278]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 October 2009]*: Like all Government Departments, the Ministry of Defence routinely reviews expenditure to ensure that we allocate our resources where they are needed most. As part of this process senior officials discussed emerging budgetary pressures in the summer and then asked all budget holders within the Department to review all uncommitted funding. Following this review, savings measures that helped balance the financial deficit, and which do not detract from support to current operations, were recommended. Although some of these savings are painful, they had to be taken to ensure that the Ministry of Defence stayed within budget.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aluminium: Recycling

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the aluminium industry on the use of recycled cans to make motor vehicles. [295594]

Dan Norris: No representations on this subject have been received to date.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has received from the salvage of carcasses or part carcasses of bovine tuberculosis reactor, inconclusive or dangerous contact cattle sold into the food chain in *(a)* 1986-96 and *(b)* 1997 to date; and how such receipts are accounted for in his Department's analysis of its expenditure on bovine tuberculosis. [293801]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Receipts in each of the last 10 complete financial years, for cattle culled for TB control reasons, are shown as follows. We are not able to provide details of receipts back to 1986 without incurring disproportionate cost.

	£ million
2008-09	4.3
2007-08	1.7
2006-07	0.5
2005-06	1.5
2004-05	1.2
2003-04	1.1
2002-03	3.7
2001-02	0.7
2000-01	1.1
1999-2000	0.9

In terms of how these receipts are accounted for in analyses of expenditure, we either use a TB compensation figure net of salvage receipts or provide TB compensation spend figures and salvage receipt figures separately.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the government of *(a)* the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* New Zealand on the vaccination of badgers against bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [293893]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State has discussed vaccination of badgers against bovine TB with the New Zealand Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity and Forestry.

The majority of DEFRA's TB vaccine research programme is led by researchers at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, who collaborate with researchers in both the Republic of Ireland and New Zealand. DEFRA officials have met with their counterparts from the Republic of Ireland and representatives of the industry-led New Zealand Animal Health Board several times recently to discuss work programmes and ensure a coordinated research effort, particularly in regards to the design of badger vaccine field studies and licensing requirements for the use of the BCG vaccine against TB.

Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements have been put in place to ensure the fairness of the tendering process in circumstances where the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science is both advising his Department on the selection of bids and is itself one of the bidders. [295569]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The arrangements to ensure the fairness of the tendering process in circumstances where CEFAS is both involved in advising on the selection of bids and is itself one of the bidders is set out the governance document 'Marine Environment Protection Fund (MEPF): Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund Delivery Partner on behalf of DEFRA: Who We Are and How We Operate' published on the MALSF website at

http://www.alsf-mepf.org.uk/downloads/documents/mepf---how-we-operate.aspx

The Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund is delivered through the Marine Environment Protection Fund (MEPF) which is administered by CEFAS on behalf of DEFRA and reports to DEFRA though the Marine ALSF Steering Group. The Marine ALSF Steering Group oversees the direction of the fund, develops the commissioning strategy for research and dissemination activities and oversees delivery arrangements.

All funding decisions are made by the MEPF evaluation panel which undertakes the evaluation of tenders. The MEPF evaluation panel is chaired by DEFRA and comprises representation from eight organisations of which CEFAS is one, plus the Marine ALSF Science Co-ordinator who is appointed through an open competition. The MEPF provides the Secretariat function to the evaluation panel and any views and opinions of the Secretariat at the evaluation panel meetings are made as representing the MEPF as a delivery partner. The Secretariat has no decision-making powers or voting rights on the evaluation panel.

The MEPF panel's terms of reference govern the arrangements for ensuring fairness in the evaluation of bids in circumstances where an evaluation panel member is from the same organisation as a bidder. These arrangements involve:

1. All evaluation panels begin with a round-table declaration of any potential conflicts of interest. A two-tiered approach to managing potential conflicts is then followed:

a) Direct involvement—If a panel member is to be part of a project delivery team and/or has helped prepare the proposal, they are required to be absent from the room while the proposal is being discussed and evaluated.

b) Indirect involvement—If a panel member's company/organisation has submitted a proposal but the panel member had played no part whatsoever in its preparation nor was to be involved with the project delivery team, the panel member is required to be a non-voting member of the panel while considering the bid but may remain in the room while the proposal is being discussed and evaluated.

2. Any individual involved in project evaluation other than central Government staff members will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement to protect the intellectual property of project applicants. These agreements must also be in place for any member of staff who receives bids from the other distributing bodies during the liaison process.

To maintain impartiality and confidentiality, the MEPF delivery partner operates entirely separately from CEFAS' main corporate and delivery functions. Specifically:

MEPF services are provided by a dedicated team from the Programme Management Group of CEFAS devoted only to the provision of MEPF fund management services.

The MEPF is separate from the Science Delivery Divisions and the Commercial Group of CEFAS and MEPF staff are not involved in MEPF bid preparation or delivery.

CEFAS bidding teams and project leaders are not able to have sight of MEPF Managed Funds papers.

Electronic files are stored on local area, not shared contracts area, with restricted access to the ALSF_MEPF local areas. Paper files are locked away and stored separately away from central contracts file store.

Chelgate

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on domestic wastes, what assessment has been made of the effectiveness against objectives of the public affairs work undertaken by Chelgate Ltd for the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [294778]

Dan Norris: No such assessment has been made by DEFRA. The requested assessment concerns the detailed operational activities of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and is not therefore a matter for DEFRA. I understand that the chief executive of WRAP has on two occasions offered to meet the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) to discuss any issues of concern to him, and I would encourage him to take up that offer.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average price paid to dairy farmers per litre of milk is; and what the price was on 1 June 2009. [295470]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Average UK prices paid to dairy farmers per litre of milk during 2009 are shown in the table. Daily prices are not collected but the average price for June 2009 was 22.5 pence per litre.

Average UK farm-gate milk price, 2009

	Pence per litre
January	25.80
February	24.90
March	24.60
April	23.60
May	22.50
June	22.50
July	22.99
August	23.26

Source:
DEFRA statistics, DARD, RERAD.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291508]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally, the following sums have been spent on hire vehicles from financial year 2005-06 to date:

Financial year	£
2005-06	35,003
2006-07	110,279
2007-08	134,803
2008-09	143,644
2009-10 to date	50,368

Domestic Waste: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the merits of introducing a statutory appeals process for fixed penalty notices issued under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005. [294900]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government do not consider that a statutory appeals process for fixed penalty notices is needed.

Fixed penalty notices for offences, such as littering, are issued as an alternative to prosecution in a magistrates court. Accepting and paying a fixed penalty notice removes all liability for the offence. An individual served with a notice may choose instead to have their case tried in court.

Domestic Waste: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the figures for each London local authority for *(a)* household waste per head, *(b)* percentage of all household waste recycled, *(c)* total non-household waste and *(d)* percentage of all non-household waste recycled were for (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [295797]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the data requested for 2006-07 and 2007-08. Local authority level data for all of 2008-09 will be published on DEFRA's website on 5 November 2009.

As requested, reuse is not included in any of the recycling data so will therefore not match some published data which include reuse.

	Collected household waste per person (kg)		*Household recycling and composting rate*		*Total non-household waste*		*Estimated non-household recycling and composting rate*	
Authority	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bexley LB	507.50	483.60	40.00	41.64	23,366.08	25,014.71	17.30	17.38
Tower Hamlets LB	396.40	406.91	11.75	13.04	22,465.24	26,659.36	1.23	3.41
City of London	570.20	700.09	28.19	33.39	39,091.19	34,950.09	2.16	4.23
Westminster City Council	334.70	357.32	20.38	22.72	110,322.00	110,661.00	2.90	2.39
Redbridge LB	417.10	408.02	18.60	22.38	14,708.50	16,944.95	12.50	11.79
Newham LB	448.60	474.64	13.58	14.40	30,707.53	28,287.04	8.44	12.43
Havering LB	517.80	499.52	20.43	23.98	17,158.24	17,912.60	0.28	17.61
Barking and Dagenham LB	534.80	526.81	21.08	20.41	15,824.98	15,931.36	20.98	24.94
Waltham Forest LB	445.00	454.59	27.51	29.74	26,439.42	24,985.04	14.40	12.02
Islington LB	433.30	404.21	23.50	26.33	38,316.60	38,018.33	4.61	4.16
Haringey LB	341.50	366.08	24.72	25.68	43,837.38	42,230.82	10.83	10.63
Hackney LB	394.80	379.78	19.57	22.38	49,088.72	46,532.65	2.58	2.57
Enfield LB	409.10	422.38	29.64	28.19	25,417.98	24,729.78	7.04	11.21
Camden LB	335.00	317.77	28.05	27.12	60,224.80	60,027.82	3.73	3.03
Barnet LB	431.60	438.68	29.47	30.68	33,400.64	32,656.04	3.26	4.54
Southwark LB	427.00	412.50	18.46	20.02	29,123.18	29,129.90	8.63	12.60
Lewisham LB	460.90	451.37	15.75	21.99	25,158.46	25,457.81	2.42	2.49
Greenwich LB	458.10	463.28	23.61	30.52	11,828.90	9,607.16	12.59	7.08
Sutton LB	464.80	442.32	30.26	32.48	12,615.13	12,037.40	3.17	1.85
Merton LB	386.60	404.95	25.05	27.08	20,980.13	12,183.28	4.79	8.84
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	444.30	419.83	23.90	25.62	7,750.70	2,092.77	0.00	0.00
Croydon LB	406.80	401.79	20.11	22.71	50,439.00	48,180.37	20.70	26.79
Bromley LB	498.40	481.07	28.85	34.46	18,282.38	21,373.48	0.00	0.00
Richmond upon Thames LB	431.90	435.12	31.71	36.14	21,622.62	22,074.31	22.03	33.52
Hounslow LB	499.50	462.08	19.62	21.75	28,545.42	11,797.79	2.75	15.47
Hillingdon LB	491.90	481.14	30.64	33.76	30,904.30	30,266.40	1.01	1.43
Harrow LB	477.00	455.48	27.70	30.55	18,093.00	16,517.00	0.00	4.05
Ealing LB	404.10	386.91	24.92	28.94	22,215.17	19,873.93	0.00	0.00
Brent LB	411.20	401.19	21.52	20.78	19,852.03	18,680.83	7.67	9.04
Wandsworth LB	366.00	386.20	22.87	24.66	0.00	0.00	n/a	n/a
Lambeth LB	351.60	355.80	23.10	25.12	0.00	0.00	n/a	n/a
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	310.10	349.30	24.28	27.93	0.00	0.00	n/a	n/a

Authority	Collected household waste per person (kg)		Household recycling and composting rate		Total non-household waste		Estimated non-household recycling and composting rate	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	339.70	343.74	23.63	26.89	0.00	0.00	n/a	n/a

Source:
WasteDataFlow.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has undertaken into smells and odours from household waste. [294856]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Resources Action Programme and the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management Scoping Study of Potential Health Effects of Fortnightly Residual Waste Collection and Related Changes to Domestic Waste Systems report, published in July 2009, provides a review of the current knowledge on householder as well as occupational impacts of smell and odours associated with the collection of household wastes.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to prohibit the disposal of domestic food waste in landfill. [294857]

Dan Norris: The Government are currently assessing the case for introducing further restrictions on sending biodegradable waste, including food waste, to landfill. This assessment will be informed by two pieces of research on landfill bans, one ongoing and one recently published. A full public consultation will take place in the next few months.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued on the disposal of waste receptacle and recycling boxes at the end of their life. [294860]

Dan Norris: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued any guidance on the disposal of waste receptacle and recycling boxes at the end of their life.

Exmoor National Park

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many pre-planning applications were received per parish in the Exmoor National Park in the last three years; [295264]

(2) how many pre-planning applications were submitted to the committee of the Exmoor National Park in each year since 2005-06; [295265]

(3) how many pre-planning applications submitted to the committee of the Exmoor National Park were subject to delegated powers in the last three years for which figures are available; [295266]

(4) how many of the pre-planning applications submitted to the committee of the Exmoor National Park resulted in full planning submissions in the last three years; [295267]

(5) how many pre-planning applications submitted to the Committee of the Exmoor National Park in the last three years involved a visit by a planning officer; [295268]

(6) how many pre-planning applications submitted to the committee of the Exmoor National Park in the last three years were contested. [295269]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Town and Country Planning Act provisions do not include a category of 'pre-planning application' and therefore it is not clear exactly what information is required. My Department has made Exmoor National Park Authority aware of the above questions and it would be happy to provide further information if the hon. Member for Bridgwater would contact it directly with clarification.

Exmoor National Park Authority: Public Appointments

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total cost to his Department was of appointments to the committee of the Exmoor National Park made by the Secretary of State in the last three years. [295262]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State appoints members every year to each of the English National Park Authorities that have vacancies. The process for inviting applications and selecting the successful candidates also involves Natural England, the National Park Authorities and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The cost of making these appointments for Exmoor or the other individual park authorities is therefore not available.

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking in the Council of Ministers to seek to improve the welfare of live horses during transport in mainland Europe. [295690]

Jim Fitzpatrick: At the Agriculture Council on 7 September the Secretary of State, Hilary Benn, expressed concern at the unnecessarily long journeys some animals, including horses, undertake within Europe, particularly for slaughter. He urged the European Commission to give due consideration to shorter journey times and improved enforcement of welfare in transport rules when they bring forward proposals to review the welfare in transport regulation 1/2005.

Ivory: Smuggling

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist African countries to tackle the illegal ivory trade. [295496]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government support initiatives to improve enforcement under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). They have provided support over several years to the CITES programmes: MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) and ETIS (Elephant Trade Information System). The latter monitors the illegal trade in ivory and elephant products.

Keep Britain Tidy: Finance

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has provided for Keep Britain Tidy in the last three years; and how much funding he plans to provide in 2009-10. [294997]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows DEFRA's grant to Keep Britain Tidy in the current year and in the previous three years:

	£ million
2006-07	5
2007-08	4.6
2008-09	5
2009-10	5

Source:
DEFRA

Landfill

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of municipal waste went to landfill in each local authority area in 2007-08. [295845]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the proportion of municipal waste sent to landfill. The data can also be found on the DEFRA website.

These data are only available for unitary authorities and waste disposal authorities. Waste collection authorities' waste is disposed of by their waste disposal authority.

Municipal waste sent to landfill in England in 2007-08

Authority	*Landfill (tonnes)*	*Total municipal waste (tonnes)*	*Proportion of waste sent to landfill (percentage)*
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	14,688	105,227	13.96
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	9,500	76,915	12.35
Middlesbrough Borough Council	15,393	88,690	17.35
Hartlepool Borough Council	6,351	54,474	11.66
Darlington Borough Council	43,849	67,141	65.31
Durham County Council	206,135	291,282	70.77
Northumberland County Council	110,593	179,599	61.58
Sunderland city Council	113,090	155,668	72.65
South Tyneside MBC	64,250	88,538	72.57
North Tyneside Council	69,537	122,811	56.62
Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council MBC	122,946	171,135	71.84
Gateshead MBC	82,894	110,465	75.04
Warrington Borough Council	71,333	111,090	64.21
Halton Borough Council	53,863	77,663	69.35
Cheshire County Council	252,024	427,534	58.95
Cumbria County Council	199,401	308,042	64.73
Wigan MBC	120,993	197,685	61.21
Greater Manchester WDA (MBC)	788,827	1,288,461	61.22
Blackpool Borough Council	53,985	80,672	66.92
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	46,851	72,091	64.99
Lancashire County Council	367,957	659,707	55.78
Merseyside WDA (MBC)	566,722	829,532	68.32
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	133,887	207,932	64.39
Kingston-upon-Hull City Council	106,949	145,689	73.41
North East Lincolnshire Council	19,469	94,845	20.53
North Lincolnshire Council	56,040	101,726	55.09
York City Council	67,235	118,602	56.69
North Yorkshire County Council	247,384	385,372	64.19
Sheffield city Council	40,032	244,415	16.38
Rotherham MBC	81,984	129,948	63.09
Doncaster MBC	114,478	178,778	64.03
Barnsley MBC	79,435	117,131	67.82
Leeds City Council MBC	240,700	335,976	70.15
Kirklees MBC	84,665	233,737	36.22
Wakefield City MDC	146,992	189,736	77.47
Bradford City MDC (MBC)	214,130	268,411	79.78
Calderdale MBC	65,880	92,527	71.20

Municipal waste sent to landfill in England in 2007-08

Authority	*Landfill (tonnes)*	*Total municipal waste (tonnes)*	*Proportion of waste sent to landfill (percentage)*
Derby City Council	76,995	131,419	58.59
Derbyshire County Council	253,638	400,355	63.35
Rutland County Council	13,750	20,522	67.00
Leicester city Council	76,630	134,797	56.85
Leicestershire County Council	209,328	375,246	55.78
Lincolnshire County Council	176,743	352,123	50.19
Northamptonshire County Council	233,297	387,277	60.24
Nottingham City Council	32,046	172,179	18.61
Nottinghamshire County Council	206,308	439,448	46.95
Herefordshire Council	64,340	96,039	66.99
Worcestershire County Council	155,859	299,863	51.98
Telford and Wrekin Council	62,630	93,553	66.95
Shropshire County Council	97,019	174,694	55.54
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	26,563	130,534	20.35
Staffordshire County Council	172,792	469,775	36.78
Warwickshire County Council	181,101	303,773	59.62
Wolverhampton MBC	31,522	142,457	22.13
Walsall MBC	61,841	138,382	44.69
Solihull MBC	16,253	100,475	16.18
Sandwell MBC	93,424	142,504	65.56
Dudley MBC	23,239	146,729	15.84
Coventry City Council	18,760	171,749	10.92
Birmingham City Council	108,768	573,548	18.96
Luton Borough Council	70,505	107,031	65.87
Bedfordshire County Council	131,368	212,480	61.83
Peterborough City Council	56,999	102,043	55.86
Cambridgeshire County Council	170,872	333,138	51.29
Thurrock Council	53,116	76,621	69.32
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	53,655	84,234	63.70
Essex County Council	437,595	732,578	59.73
Hertfordshire County Council	318,608	567,753	56.12
Norfolk County Council	242,697	409,964	59.20
Suffolk County Council	233,886	408,268	57.29
Bexley LB	59,629	132,182	45.11
Tower Hamlets LB	100,518	113,378	88.66
City of London	36,179	40,421	89.51
Westminster City Council	27,414	193,525	14.17
East London Waste Authority	276,781	504,483	54.86
North London Waste Authority	292,428	944,588	30.96
Southwark LB	74,605	140,351	53.16
Lewisham LB	14,301	141,287	10.12
Greenwich LB	2,993	112,650	2.66
Sutton LB	64,377	91,965	70.00
Merton LB	69,467	92,242	75.31
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	49,601	67,560	73.42
Croydon LB	139,697	183,608	76.08
Bromley LB	71,735	165,262	43.41
West London Waste Authority	567,666	772,767	73.46
Western Riverside Waste Authority	361,214	457,397	78.97
Wokingham Council	46,495	77,633	59.89
Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council	45,165	69,092	65.37
Slough Borough Council	48,549	62,153	78.11
Reading Borough Council	49,859	78,972	63.14
West Berkshire District Council	64,337	83,997	76.59
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	34,751	59,244	58.66
Milton Keynes Council	88,803	135,202	65.68
Buckinghamshire County Council	161,486	265,739	60.77
Brighton and Hove Council	66,434	112,373	59.12
East Sussex County Council	152,633	270,318	56.46
Southampton City Council	26,802	120,224	22.29
Portsmouth City Council	11,630	85,701	13.57
Hampshire County Council	85,549	696,553	12.28
Isle of Wight Council	52,703	86,004	61.28

Municipal waste sent to landfill in England in 2007-08

Authority	*Landfill (tonnes)*	*Total municipal waste (tonnes)*	*Proportion of waste sent to landfill (percentage)*
Medway Borough Council	90,454	138,360	65.38
Kent County Council	427,584	803,494	53.22
Oxfordshire County Council	204,418	331,194	61.72
Surrey County Council	397,601	622,382	63.88
West Sussex County Council	279,823	464,341	60.26
Council of the Isles of Scilly	0	3,135	0.00
Bath and North East Somerset Council	55,512	97,109	57.16
Bristol City Council	115,589	185,502	62.31
Cornwall County Council	210,386	324,480	64.84
Torbay Council	56,042	78,720	71.19
Plymouth City Council	94,442	148,663	63.53
Devon County Council	218,088	438,616	49.72
Poole Borough Council	62,326	94,929	65.66
Bournemouth Borough Council	55,512	93,142	59.60
Dorset County Council	120,048	228,159	52.62
Gloucestershire County Council	201,703	323,076	62.43
North Somerset Council	70,437	111,946	62.92
Somerset County Council	159,805	297,991	53.63
South Gloucestershire Council	78,958	146,796	53.79
Swindon Borough Council	60,692	97,543	62.22
Wiltshire County Council	158,966	259,567	61.24

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities did not reduce the proportion of their waste sent to landfill in the course of 2007-08. [295846]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the authorities in England that did not reduce the proportion of their waste sent to landfill in the course of 2007-08.

These data only include unitary authorities and waste disposal authorities. Waste collection authorities' waste is disposed of by their waste disposal authority.

Authority	*Percentage of waste sent to landfill in 2006-07*	*Percentage of waste sent to landfill in 2007-08*	*Difference between 2006-07 and 2007-08*
Bexley LB	43.09	45.11	2.02
Bradford City MDC (MBC)	78.96	79.78	0.82
Bromley LB	41.67	43.41	1.73
Dudley MBC	15.43	15.84	0.41
Durham County Council	63.14	70.77	7.63
Hartlepool Borough Council	10.63	11.66	1.04
Isle of Wight Council	58.51	61.28	2.77
Kent County Council	52.74	53.22	0.48
Medway Borough Council	65.07	65.38	0.31
Middlesbrough Borough Council	16.10	17.35	1.25
Milton Keynes Council	63.72	65.68	1.96
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	11.85	12.35	0.50
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	69.45	73.42	3.97
Sheffield City Council	14.55	16.38	1.83
Southampton City Council	17.72	22.29	4.57
Southwark LB	48.81	53.16	4.35
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	10.54	13.96	3.41
Torbay Council	67.97	71.19	3.22
Tower Hamlets LB	83.08	88.66	5.58
Wiltshire County Council	60.16	61.24	1.09
Wolverhampton MBC	17.30	22.13	4.84

Source:
WasteDataFlow

Litter: Rural Areas

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of littering in rural areas. [294995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's policy on tackling litter applies to all communities. There is no excuse for littering and local authorities have been given powers to deal with litterers, most recently through the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Littering is an offence and if convicted in a magistrates court an offender may receive a fine of up to £2,500 and a criminal record. As an alternative, local authorities have powers to issue on the spot fines of up to £80. The 2005 Act includes a power for parish councils to issue on the spot fines for littering the first time.

Through its annual grant to the charity Keep Britain Tidy, the Government campaign for behaviour change on litter. Campaigns like The Big Tidy Up and the Eco-Schools programme raise awareness of the issue, and get communities and individuals actively involved in clean-ups, in understanding the impact of littering and taking greater responsibility for their neighbourhoods.

Local Government Association

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 443W, on the Local Government Association, what guidance his Department has provided on the status of the Local Government Association in respect of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. [294779]

Dan Norris: My Department has not provided any guidance on the status of the Local Government Association in respect of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Guidance on which bodies may be public authorities under the EIRs is publicly available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/policy/opengov/eir/guidance/full-guidance/pdf/guidance-2.pdf

Pigs

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of maintaining the ban on raising pigs on swill. [295475]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No formal assessment has been made. However, at the time when the ban was introduced in 2001, around 70 swill processors lost trade and around 90 swill feeders had to find alternative sources of feed. Restaurants, kitchens and factories producing food also had to find alternative disposal routes. These bodies have subsequently adapted to the new rules and so a cost comparison between then and now would be difficult to make.

The benefits of maintaining the ban remain primarily the prevention of disease spread. As the 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak demonstrated, the financial and practical consequences of one mistake in swill feeding can be enormous and potentially far outweigh the costs above. This FMD outbreak, the cause of which was thought to be the feeding of unprocessed swill to pigs, is estimated to have cost in the region of £8 billion (including indirect costs) and the potential for re-introducing the disease by livestock being illegally fed on infected meat is a constant and on-going concern. For this reason, the Government support a maintenance of the EU wide ban which is now in place.

Recycling

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce quotas on the minimum amount of recycled material to be used in *(a)* motor vehicle manufacture and *(b)* manufactured goods; and if he will make a statement. [295590]

Dan Norris: There are no such plans.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of waste was *(a)* recycled and *(b)* composted in 2007-08 in each local authority area. [295798]

Dan Norris: I have asked for the list of local authorities ranked by waste recycled and composted in 2007-08 to be placed in the Library of the House.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities recycled or composted a smaller proportion of their total waste in 2007-08 than in 2006-07. [295847]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the English local authorities that composted a smaller proportion of their total household waste in 2007-08 than in 2006-07.

	Household composting rate (percentage)		
Authority	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Difference between 2006-07 and 2007-08*
Easington District Council	20.85	4.24	-16.61
Durham City Council	11.32	2.81	-8.51
Sedgefield Borough Council	9.67	1.34	-8.33
Derwentside District Council	9.03	1.44	-7.59
Chester-Le-Street District Council	7.58	0.00	-7.58
Durham County Council	12.23	5.89	-6.34
Hertsmere Borough Council	17.40	12.15	-5.26
Wear Valley District Council	8.26	3.16	-5.10
West Devon Borough Council	18.98	13.93	-5.05
Richmondshire District Council	14.75	11.79	-2.96
Surrey Heath Borough Council	9.65	7.19	-2.47
Camden LB	5.67	3.23	-2.44
Hambleton District Council	29.23	27.15	-2.09
Bridgnorth District Council	18.01	16.10	-1.91

	Household composting rate (percentage)		
Authority	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Difference between 2006-07 and 2007-08*
Wandsworth LB	3.61	2.08	-1.53
West Wiltshire District Council	21.31	19.85	-1.47
South Shropshire District Council	31.36	29.92	-1.44
Brent LB	10.27	8.90	-1.38
Chelmsford Borough Council	17.41	16.05	-1.36
Spelthorne Borough Council	2.41	1.27	-1.14
Watford Borough Council	16.01	14.96	-1.04
Restormel Borough Council	0.95	0.00	-0.95
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	4.46	3.56	-0.91
North East Lincolnshire Council	14.37	13.55	-0.83
Colchester Borough Council	12.51	11.74	-0.77
Northampton Borough Council	16.81	16.16	-0.65
South Ribble Borough Council	21.98	21.36	-0.62
Daventry District Council	29.93	29.31	-0.62
Torbay Council	7.58	6.98	-0.59
Forest Heath District Council	23.96	23.38	-0.57
Bradford City MDC (MBC)	12.18	11.61	-0.57
Shepway District Council	13.37	12.81	-0.56
Lambeth LB	10.78	10.22	-0.56
Medway Borough Council	12.27	11.73	-0.54
Oxfordshire County Council	15.52	14.99	-0.53
Harlow District Council	1.69	1.18	-0.51
Wiltshire County Council	14.04	13.55	-0.49
Woking Borough Council	11.21	10.83	-0.38
Barking and Dagenham LB	5.93	5.58	-0.35
Vale Royal Borough Council	26.01	25.69	-0.32
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	17.52	17.21	-0.30
Waltham Forest LB	10.28	10.05	-0.23
Kennet District Council	13.67	13.47	-0.20
West Berkshire District Council	6.23	6.05	-0.18
Bexley LB	17.79	17.62	-0.17
Kerrier District Council	7.79	7.62	-0.17
Southwark LB	4.18	4.02	-0.16
Wolverhampton MBC	15.18	15.02	-0.16
Maldon District Council	13.07	12.99	-0.08
Western Riverside Waste Authority	5.84	5.81	-0.02
Worcester City Council	0.06	0.05	-0.01

Source:
WasteDataFlow

The following table shows the English local authorities that recycled a smaller proportion of their total household waste in 2007-08 than in 2006-07.

	Household dry recycling rate (Percentage)		
Authority	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Difference between 2006-07 and 2007-08*
North Kesteven District Council	34.21	29.15	-5.07
Western Riverside Waste Authority	82.39	80.91	-1.48
Gedling Borough Council	32.08	30.73	-1.35
Kettering Borough Council	22.30	21.00	-1.30
Erewash Borough Council	25.49	24.26	-1.23
Haringey LB	19.35	18.25	-1.11
Wiltshire County Council	24.24	23.13	-1.11
Milton Keynes Council	24.38	23.44	-0.94
Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council	24.62	23.68	-0.94
Alnwick District Council	28.86	27.99	-0.87
Chiltern District Council	32.44	31.91	-0.53
Broxtowe Borough Council	26.54	26.10	-0.44
East Cambridgeshire District Council	16.80	16.45	-0.35
Bradford City MDC (MBC)	12.52	12.17	-0.35
Barking and Dagenham LB	15.15	14.83	-0.33

Household dry recycling rate (Percentage)

Authority	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Difference between 2006-07 and 2007-08*
Rushcliffe Borough Council	27.07	26.89	-0.17
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	98.20	98.05	-0.16
Enfield LB	18.22	18.08	-0.15
Wokingham Council	22.82	22.68	-0.13
Medway Borough Council	20.12	19.99	-0.13
Telford and Wrekin Council	19.82	19.76	-0.07
Ashfield District Council	27.62	27.59	-0.03
Cambridgeshire County Council	22.88	22.86	-0.02
Mansfield District Council	21.34	21.32	-0.02
Isle of Wight Council	14.89	14.88	-0.01

Source:
WasteDataFlow.

Sheep: Tagging

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of sheep which will require electronic tagging following the implementation of measures for electronic identification of sheep and goats in accordance with Regulation (EC) 21/2004. [294846]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Animals born or identified after 31 December 2009 which are intended to be kept beyond 12 months of age will need to be electronically identified. Around 20 per cent. of lambs born each year are kept beyond this age as breeding replacements and will need to be electronically identified.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on disease control which will result from the implementation of measures for the electronic tagging of sheep. [294847]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Independent epidemiological modelling has identified that the introduction of electronic identification (EID) and individual recording could reduce costs of managing an outbreak of exotic disease over the current UK system by up to 13 per cent. as a result of fewer infected premises and less animals being culled. It will also improve our ability to track individual animal movements.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to farmers of implementing measures for electronic identification of sheep and goats in accordance with Regulation (EC) 21/2004; [294848]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of compulsory electronic tagging of sheep on the *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international competitiveness of the livestock industry. [295005]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Two partial Impact Assessments are available on the DEFRA website. A final Impact Assessment will accompany implementing legislation later this year.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce a compulsory farm of origin labelling scheme for *(a)* lamb and *(b)* other meats in conjunction with the operation of (i) electronic sheep tagging and (ii) other European directives on livestock traceability. [295006]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Compulsory EU labelling rules on origin of beef and veal already apply throughout the supply chain with full traceability being a key requirement. There are no current plans to introduce compulsory farm of origin labelling for lamb, or for other meats. Government do however support current EU proposals for a Regulation on the Provision of Food Information which would tighten up country or origin labelling, particularly for meat and meat products, requiring specified information to be given where claims of origin are made. These EU proposals do not relate to electronic sheep tagging or European directives on livestock traceability but are intended to ensure consumers have clear information about the origin of meat products.

Smallholdings: Local Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have smallholdings; what the area of each such authority's smallholdings is; and whether he plans to undertake a review of the future use and ownership of local authority smallholdings. [294843]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The annual report to parliament on smallholdings in England provides details of the numbers of statutory smallholdings held by local authorities analysed according to size of holding. This information is set out in the following table.

The latest published annual report is the 57th report for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, which is available in the Library of the House and can also be seen on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA has no current plans to undertake a review of the future use and ownership of local authority smallholdings.

Analysis of smallholdings by size at 31 March 2007

	Number of holdings			
County/unitary authority	*0-20 ha*	*20-40 ha*	*Over 40 ha*	*Total*
Bedfordshire	83	30	25	138

Analysis of smallholdings by size at 31 March 2007

County/unitary authority	*Number of holdings*			
	0-20 ha	*20-40 ha*	*Over 40 ha*	*Total*
Berkshire West	—	2	1	3
Bournemouth	5	1	1	7
Brighton and Hove	24	4	23	51
Buckinghamshire	35	17	14	66
Cambridgeshire	137	67	140	344
Cheshire	58	51	28	137
City of York	2	—	2	4
Cornwall	10	51	51	112
Cumbria	6	8	—	14
Devon	6	32	53	91
Dorset	6	28	32	66
Durham	1	2	12	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	65	54	17	136
East Sussex	—	1	1	2
Essex	8	3	—	11
Gloucestershire	56	49	31	136
Hampshire	40	8	18	66
Hartlepool	—	1	1	2
Herefordshire	4	48	9	61
Hertfordshire	23	18	21	62
Lancashire	2	—	—	2
Leicestershire	10	52	20	82
Lincolnshire	120	84	76	280
Medway	2	—	1	3
Milton Keynes	5	2	5	12
Norfolk	116	54	70	240
Northamptonshire	8	5	2	15
North Lincolnshire	17	1	—	18
North Somerset	5	1	5	11
Northumberland	1	—	6	7
North Yorkshire	16	44	18	78
Nottinghamshire	12	6	1	19
Oxfordshire	34	5	2	41
Peterborough	12	1	15	28
Shropshire	25	17	1	43
Slough	1	—	—	1
Somerset	17	41	31	89
South Gloucestershire	8	6	4	18
Staffordshire	48	68	19	135
Suffolk	15	20	67	102
Surrey	41	13	6	60
Swindon	4	9	6	19
Thurrock	6	3	2	11
Torbay	2	—	—	2
Warrington	3	2	—	5
Warwickshire	36	19	20	75
West Sussex	14	2	5	21
Wiltshire	22	27	22	71
Worcestershire	96	20	10	126
Total	1,267	977	894	3,138

Source:
Extract from the 57th annual report to Parliament on smallholdings in England

Veterinary Medicine: Nurses

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many registered veterinary nurses there are. [294842]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons maintains a list of veterinary nurses who are allowed by the Veterinary Services Act 1966 to undertake certain veterinary procedures. There are currently 8,795 qualified veterinary nurses on this list. Of these, 6,758 have voluntarily applied to join a non statutory register of veterinary nurses, and are therefore known as registered veterinary nurses.

Waste Disposal: Fixed Penalties

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty notices were served in respect of household waste disposal offences in Leeds City in each year since 2001. [295360]

Dan Norris: The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 enabled local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices for waste receptacle offences for the first time in April 2006. In the period 2006-07, Leeds city council issued and received payment on 41 fixed penalty notices.

DEFRA has commissioned returns from English local authorities on fixed penalty notices issued for 2007-08 and 2008-09 for a range of environmental offences, including those relating to waste receptacles. Returns are still outstanding from many local authorities and these are being pursued. Results will be published on the DEFRA website in December.

Zero Waste Places

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each bid made for Towards Zero Waste Place funding. [294464]

Dan Norris: Copies of the bids made for Towards Zero Waste Place funding will be made available in the House Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what schemes have received funding from his Department under the Zero Waste Places scheme since the scheme's inception; and what projects or policies have since been adopted as a result. [294555]

Dan Norris: In October 2008 the Government announced England's first six Zero Waste Places, which received total funding of £70,258. The places fulfilled a pathfinder role in identifying the barriers and illustrating solutions to enable other local authorities to adopt good sustainable waste management practices. These were:

A Waste Free Tuesday Market Place—Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk;

Peterborough City Centre—Peterborough Environment City Trust;

Green Zones Community Development Project—London Borough of Brent;

Shenley Church End Zero Waste Place Project—Milton Keynes Council;

A Zero Waste Region—West Midlands (WM) Region;

London Borough of Lewisham—Lewisham Zero Waste Eco Street.

The initiative ran from October 2008 until May 2009. All projects were considered successful and all have continued in some form after the funding ended. Details of the six projects can be found on the Local Government Association website.

We have also announced six new Zero Waste Places in parts of Shropshire, Dorchester, Brixton, Newham, Hoxton and Suffolk. We plan to support these places, which are moving towards zero waste through seed corn funding totalling approximately £50,000. The evidence generated by the projects will be used as guidance for other areas working towards a zero waste ambition.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 886W, on what subjects the learning and development activities were undertaken by his Department's staff. [295442]

Ann McKechin: A variety of external learning and development activities were undertaken by staff in the Scotland Office in the last 12 months, including health and safety training for senior executives, first aid training and various professional development activities.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294689]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not possible to disaggregate costs in respect of overnight accommodation without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Females

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to help increase standards of *(a)* female literacy and *(b)* medical care for women and girls in the world's 10 poorest countries. [293954]

Mr. Michael Foster: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to achieving the education millennium development goals of universal primary education and gender parity in education by 2015 and is spending at least £8.5 billion over the period 2006-15 in support of education in poor and developing countries. DFID regards supporting girls' education as a priority. DFID's Strategy, Girls' Education: Towards a Better Future for All (2005) sets out our approach to overcoming the barriers girls face in getting an education—it is available at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

(b) In June 2008, the UK Government made a commitment to spend £6 billion on strengthening health systems and services over seven years to 2015 (plus £1 billion to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) event on 23 September highlighted the importance of providing health services free at the point of delivery. The UK-initiated Global Consensus on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health was also widely endorsed. It seeks to make health systems and investments work better for women and children, thus driving up standards. Leaders from Nepal, Malawi, Ghana, Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone announced historic shifts towards free health care. Removing the financial barriers to health services and providing services free at the point of use

for women and children will ensure that the poorest people, especially women and girls, can access a trained health worker in the right place at the right time with the right infrastructure, equipment and drugs.

India: Tuberculosis

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's support for the national tuberculosis programme in India in reducing the incidence of tuberculosis in that country. [294276]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) support to India's National Tuberculosis Control Programme has been highly effective. The programme has averted an estimated 180,000 deaths a year since 2005. That is around 500 lives saved in India every day. DFID's support has helped put 1.5 million TB patients on treatment every year in India.

Our support has ensured that India has faced no drug shortage, despite having the most rapidly expanding TB programme in the world. By March 2006, the programme had been scaled up to cover the entire country. Since 1997, the success rate for TB treatment has tripled from 25 per cent. to 86 per cent. and TB deaths rates have been cut seven-fold from 29 per cent. to 4 per cent.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Vacancies

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many full-time equivalent posts are currently vacant in the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [294052]

Maria Eagle: None.

Training: Sight Impaired

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government have spent to support Braille literacy courses in each of the last four years; and if she will make a statement. [293053]

Michael Jabez Foster: My Department, the Government Equalities Office, was established in October 2007. It has not spent any money on Braille literacy courses since then.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anguilla: Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the Government have contributed to the establishment of the Anguilla Renewable Energy Office. [293464]

Chris Bryant: The Anguilla Renewable Energy Office is being established by the Anguilla National Trust in conjunction with the government of Anguilla, as part of a project entitled "Implementation of the Anguilla Energy Policy 2008-20. Phase One: Building a Broad Community Movement". The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) has committed £100,000 over two years in support of the overall project. OTEP has to date contributed £3,805 to the establishment of the Anguilla Renewable Energy Office.

British Council: Manpower

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British Council posts in the UK are being outsourced; what the cost-savings involved are; and if he will make a statement. [295187]

Chris Bryant: The British Council is undertaking an investment and transformation programme across its network to increase the scale and impact of its global activities.

This includes a proposal to consolidate the organisation's finance functions from five global centres into one overseas centre and one in the UK. As a result, the total number of UK finance posts would reduce from 98 to approximately 40. Around 40 posts would transfer to the overseas finance centre. Consultation on the proposals is ongoing and no final decision has yet been made. Proposed changes to the finance function do not include any plans to outsource to other companies.

The overall savings from this reduction in staffing will be approximately £12 million per year.

British Council: Redundancy

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the terms of the redundancy agreement for British Council employees are being changed for existing staff; and if he will make a statement. [295186]

Chris Bryant: The British Council's Redundancy Procedures Agreement was agreed and signed by the organisation and its local trade union on 12 June 2008. The agreement is based on relevant UK legislation and employment relations best practice. No changes to its terms are planned.

British Overseas Territories: Police

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many police officers have been arrested for criminal activity in each of the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean in the last five years. [293451]

Chris Bryant: The following table shows the number of arrests in the last five years but these figures do not necessarily translate into successful prosecutions.

	Number
Anguilla	6
British Virgin Islands	9
Cayman Islands	13
Montserrat	2
Turks and Caicos Islands	3

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295421]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Colombia: Land Mines

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Colombian Government on its use of land-mines to protect military installations. [293605]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* We have seen no evidence to suggest that the Colombian armed forces are using land-mines prohibited by the Ottawa Convention. We have therefore made no representations to the Colombian Government on the use of land-mines around military installations.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the Government of Colombia in respect of that Government's use of land-mines to protect military installations. [295672]

Chris Bryant: We have seen no evidence to suggest that the Colombian armed forces are using land mines prohibited by the Ottawa Convention. We have therefore made no representations to the Colombian Government on the use of land mines around military installations.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 108W, on Colombia, for which projects to strengthen labour relations in Colombia his Department is considering proposals. [295639]

Chris Bryant: In addition to supporting a UN Development Programme initiative aimed at improving human rights of trade unionists and the development of positive labour relations in Colombia, we are waiting for a revised proposal from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) on reconciliation and arbitration.

We will consider the merits of that proposal at the appropriate time. I had the pleasure of meeting Colombian trade unionists during my recent visit to Bogota. The Government strongly believe in the legitimate and important role that trade unions play in civil society. We therefore continue to monitor labour relations in Colombia closely, raising concerns with the Colombian Government as necessary.

Consolidated Contractors Corporation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts Ministers and officials in his Department have had with the Consolidated Contractors Corporation (CCC Group) and its international offshoots in the last five years. [294379]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has had no contracts or purchase orders with the Consolidated Contractors Corporation (CCC Group) in the last five years.

Regarding FCO meetings, communications, or other contacts with CCC Group, this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cyprus: Politics and Government

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of Turkish troops based in the Turkish-occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus. [295625]

Chris Bryant: The Government have made no estimate of the number of Turkish or Turkish Cypriot armed forces in the north of Cyprus.

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government has had with the Government of *(a)* the Republic of Cyprus, *(b)* Greece and *(c)* Turkey on the continuing role of the Guarantor Powers in the context of Cyprus's membership of the EU. [295626]

Chris Bryant: The Government regularly discusses with Cyprus, Greece and Turkey, the issue of security in the context of current negotiations to reunite the island.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to promote full implementation by the Governments of Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo of their commitments to non-military policies to disarm, demobilise and repatriate members of the FDLR, as agreed in the 2007 Nairobi Communiqué; and if he will make a statement. [294737]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 21 October 2009]:* A combination of military and non-military pressure on the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR), and political co-operation between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, remains the most likely way of tackling the FDLR.

Both countries recently announced their ambassadors, and Congolese President Kabila and Rwandan President Kagame held their first ever bilateral summit in August. We continue to encourage DRC and Rwanda to work on other key areas, such as border security, trade and the return of refugees.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that, in the course of Operation Kimia 2, MONUC is not directly or indirectly supporting FARDC members who have been accused of war crimes; and if he will make a statement. [294738]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 21 October 2009]:* The UK has stressed on various occasions to the UN that the UN Mission in the Democratic of Congo (DRC) (MONUC) should not provide such support, including to operations which involve Bosco Ntadanga, an International Criminal Court indictee. MONUC has assured the international community that it takes every effort to avoid doing so.

The UK continues to push for implementation of this policy. DRC President Kabila recently announced a policy of "Zero Tolerance" for abuses, including those committed by the security forces. We continue to urge the DRC Government to fully implement this policy.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293245]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on sizes of companies is not currently recorded on our management information system, Prism, although in accordance with the recommendations of the Glover report we are currently changing our processes to capture this information.

We are unable at this time to generate a report containing information on Foreign and Commonwealth Office contracts with small businesses which means the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publicity

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much his Department has spent on its *(a)* Know Before You Go campaign, *(b)* "Another Side to Paradise" campaign, *(c)* "Don't miss out campaign" and *(d)* other campaigns aimed at Britons travelling abroad co-ordinated by his Department in each year since 2001; [295399]

(2) whether any *(a)* internal or *(b)* external studies have been commissioned into the effectiveness of (i) his Department's Know Before You Go campaign and (ii) any subsidiary campaigns since 2001. [295400]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2172W.

The cost of the "Another Side to Paradise" campaign was £15,000 and the cost of the "Don't miss out campaign" was approximately £12,000. The cost of all other campaigns that are aimed at Britons travelling abroad could be obtained from the Department and its 250 overseas posts only at disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Service: Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 334W, on the LOCATE system, how many people have registered their details online in each year since the service's inception. [295640]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas online registration and crisis database, LOCATE, does not break down registrations on a yearly basis. However, it does record the total number of active registrations at any one time; that is to say the number of registered British nationals who are currently travelling, living or working overseas. As of 22 October 2009, this number stands at 56,661 people.

Falkland Islands: Oil

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to license areas for oil exploration around the Falkland Islands. [293616]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* Exploration for oil and gas continues around the Falkland Islands and the Government continue to support this. In April 2008, the Government approved the Falkland Islands Government's request to resume open door licensing for offshore oil exploration and production in five blocks. Since then a number of companies have farmed-in with existing licence holders in preparation for drilling exploration wells. Exploratory drilling in the area to the north of the Islands could begin as early as February 2010.

Libya: Embassies

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Libyan diplomatic mission in the UK owes in outstanding *(a)* parking fines, *(b)* congestion charges and *(c)* business rates. [294792]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In June 2009, when the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual written ministerial statements on alleged abuses of diplomatic privileges and immunities were published, the Libyan embassy owed £2,760 in outstanding parking fines and £1,080 in congestion charge fees. They had no outstanding arrears for national non-domestic rates.

Overseas Territories Environment Programme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the South Atlantic British Overseas Territories have received from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme for environmental management since 2005. [293448]

Chris Bryant: Since 2005 the Overseas Territories Environment Programme has funded projects totalling £2,056,100 in the South Atlantic British Overseas Territories.

Pakistan: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of levels of expenditure by Pakistan on its nuclear weapons programme. [294840]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Pakistan's defence spending for the financial year 2008-09 is reported as being 305 billion rupees and is anticipated to reach 343 billion rupees for the next financial year. We do not have information on how much is devoted to the nuclear weapons programme, although any such programme will require significant levels of resources.

We continue to engage with the government of Pakistan on a variety of defence matters, and regularly discuss counter proliferation issues with them.

Papal Nuncio

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Papal Nuncio of Britain. [293811]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions recently with the Papal Nuncio of the UK. Our ambassador to the Holy See has spoken to the Papal Nuncio twice in recent weeks.

Papal Visit

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on proposals for a Papal visit to the United Kingdom. [293812]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In February 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister invited the Pope to visit the UK. To date, there has been no official announcement by either state of a Papal visit.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the written ministerial statement of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 9WS, on the Turks and Caicos Islands, how many staff of his Department have worked in the Governor's office si[illegible]05; what the roles were of such staff; and if he [illegible] statement. [294592]

Chris Bryant: The staffing of the Governor's Office consists of a Governor, a head of the Governor's Office (HoGO), a staff officer and a personal assistant. In November 2008 the staff was strengthened with the addition of a senior adviser to the Governor.

Since 2005, three officers have filled the post of Governor, three the post of HoGO, two the post of staff officer and two the post of personal assistant. Since its creation in 2008 the senior adviser position has been filled by three staff. During periods of leave and illness, positions in Governor's Office have been covered by a number of staff on temporary duty.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the written ministerial statement of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 9WS, on the Turks and Caicos Islands, how often his Department plans to update the House on progress made to restore good governance, sustainable development and sound financial management to the Islands. [294593]

Chris Bryant: I will keep the House up to date through further statements when there are significant developments in the Islands.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Meetings

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times Ministers in his Department have had meetings with the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [294544]

Chris Bryant: My hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Healey (Meg Munn) met the Governor prior to his departure for the Turks and Caicos Islands in July 2008 and my hon. Friend, the then Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), met him at the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in October 2008. I have not yet had the opportunity to meet him, but have spoken to him on the telephone.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long he expects the interim Government in the Turks and Caicos Islands to be in place. [294940]

Chris Bryant: On 14 August 2009 the Governor brought into force an Order in Council suspending ministerial Government and the House of Assembly in Turks and Caicos Island for a period of two years. It remains our intention that elections should be held by July 2011.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures his Department has put in place to ensure sustainable development in the Turks and Caicos Islands following the publication of Sir Robin Auld's final report on alleged corruption. [294943]

Chris Bryant: Crown land is the Turks and Caicos Island (TCI)'s biggest and most vulnerable asset. The Government have funded the appointment of a crown land adviser who is reviewing existing Crown land policy taking into account the TCI long-term sustainable development plan.

Visits Abroad: USA

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits he has made to the United States on official business in the last 12 months. [293313]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made five visits to the US since October 2008 on official business.

Visits Abroad: Vatican

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what visits officials from his Department have made to the Holy See in the last 12 months. [293810]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have visited the Holy See in an official capacity in the last 12 months:

Matthew Rycroft, Director EU (May 2009).

John Duncan, HMA UKDIS Geneva (UK Permanent Representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament) (April 2009).

Robin Gwynn, Climate Envoy for Vulnerable Countries (February 2009).

John Ashton, UK Special Representative for Climate Change (December 2008).

TREASURY

Bradford and Bingley

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what compensation has been provided to shareholders of *(a)* Bradford and Bingley and *(b)* Northern Rock (i) on average per shareholder and (ii) in total; and if he will make a statement. [295893]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To date, no compensation has been paid to former shareholders of Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley. The amount of compensation payable is to be determined by independent valuers in accordance with the Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008 and Bradford & Bingley plc Compensation Scheme Order 2009.

The Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley independent valuers (Andrew Caldwell, Valuations Partner at BDO Stoy Hayward, and Peter Clokey of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, respectively) are both currently conducting the valuation exercises and will conclude their tasks as soon as practicable. Both valuers are independent and responsible for their own process and timing. Further information can be found on the independent valuers' websites at:

www.northernrockvaluer.org.uk

www.bandbvaluer.org.uk

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether research has been undertaken to establish the reasons for the different child trust fund take-up rates between different regions in the UK; and what steps are being taken to increase the take-up level where it is lowest. [295471]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HMRC has been increasing its radio advertising in areas of low take-up and sends a reminder letter to all parents who don't open an account after eight months. If parents do not open an account within one year, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will open an account for the child, ensuring that no child misses out on the benefits of a child trust fund account.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294986]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has a general public inquiry telephone line operating at standard rates.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 194W, on housing: construction, whether the Valuebill/e-BAR interface is used in each case for each of the local authorities listed. [293016]

Ian Pearson: The Valuebill/e-BAR interface is not used for the submission of building commencement notices or building completion notices.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the policy of the Valuation Office Agency is on whether unauthorised dwellings which do not have planning permission should be assessed for housing benefit or local housing allowance. [294516]

Ian Pearson: The local housing allowance is a standard allowance based on the area in which a claimant lives and the number of occupiers in their property, it is not a property specific housing benefit. The Valuation Office Agency's responsibility is to determine the median market rent for the appropriate size properties and provide those determinations to the local authorities each month. It is the responsibility of the local authority to assess housing benefit for individual claimants.

News International

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether any Minister or official in his Department has had *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts with News International in the last five years; [295329]

(2) whether any Minister or official in his Department has had *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts with the Monitor Group in the last five years. [295330]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what combination of letters and numbers is used for individual sub-location codes for the revaluation of non-domestic rates. [294443]

Ian Pearson: Any unique combination of letters and numbers up to a maximum of four may be used.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) accrued revenue in the last three months from callers to HMRC 08 telephone numbers being kept on line while waiting to be answered. [295035]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) centrally managed network of contact centres has received no revenue in respect of its use of 08 telephone numbers. HMRC's contact centre policy is to provide as quick and efficient a service as possible.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representatives of the tourism industry in Wales on the financial effect of the revised furnished holiday letting rules. [295246]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials hold discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the financial effect which the revised furnished holiday letting rules will have on persons operating holiday lets in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wales. [295247]

Mr. Timms: An impact assessment for the changes to the furnished holiday lettings rules will be published at the 2009 pre-Budget report, alongside draft legislation.

Taxation: Scotland

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has responsibilities for the levy aspects of business improvement districts in Scotland. [295251]

Mr. Timms: No.

These are the responsibility of the relevant local authority in conjunction with participating businesses in the business improvement district area.

Valuation Office Agency: East Midlands

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 194W, on housing: construction, which local authorities in the East Midlands provided details of *(a)* building control commencement lists and *(b)* building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency in the last 12 months; and whether the Valuebill/e-BAR interface was used in each case. [293223]

Ian Pearson: A table showing which local authorities within the East Midlands region of England have provided building control commencement lists and building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency in the last 12months is set out as follows.

The Valuebill/e-BAR interface is not used for the submission of building control commencement lists or building control completion notices.

Billing authority	*Commencement notices*	*Completion notices*
High Peak	No	No
Derbyshire Dales	Yes	No
Amber Valley	No	No
North East and South Derbyshire	No	No
Chesterfield	Yes	No
Bolsover	No	No
Derby Erewash	No	No
Rushcliffe	Yes	No
Broxtowe	Yes	No
Ashfield	Yes	No
Gedling	No	No
Newark and Sherwood	No	No
Mansfield	No	No
Bassetlaw	No	No
Nottingham	Yes	No
Lincoln	No	No
North Kesteven	No	No
South Kesteven	No	No
South Holland	No	No
Boston	No	No
East Lindsey	No	No
West Lindsey	No	No
Charnwood	No	No
Melton	Yes	No
Harborough	No	No
Oadby and Wigston	No	No
Blaby	No	Yes
Hinckley and Bosworth	No	No
North West Leicestershire	No	No
Leicester	No	No
Rutland	Yes	Yes
South Northampton	No	No
Northampton	No	No
Daventry	No	No
Wellingborough	No	No
Kettering	No	No
Corby	No	No
East Northamptonshire	No	No

Valuation Office: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 194-96W, on housing: construction, (1) which local authorities in the North East have provided details of *(a)* building control commencement lists and *(b)* building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency; and whether the Valuebill/e-BAR interface was used in each case; [292864]

(2) which local authorities in the North West provide details of *(a)* building control commencement lists and *(b)* building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency; and whether the Valuebill/e-BAR interface is used in each case; [293010]

(3) which local authorities in the South West provide details of *(a)* building control commencement lists and *(b)* building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency; and whether the Valuebill/e-BAR interface is used in each case. [293019]

Ian Pearson: A table showing which local authorities within the *(a)* North East, *(b)* North West and *(c)* South West regions of England have provided building control commencement lists and building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency is shown as follows. The Valuebill/e-BAR interface is not used for the submission of building control commencement lists or building control completion notices.

Billing authority	*Commencement notices*	*Completion notices*
(a) North East		
Northumberland	No	No
Durham	Yes[1]	Yes[1]
Darlington	Yes	Yes
Gateshead	No	Yes
Hartlepool	Yes	No
Middlesbrough	No	No
Newcastle	No	No
North Tyneside	No	No
Redcar and Cleveland	No	No
South Tyneside	No	No
Stockton-on-Tees	No	No
Sunderland	No	Yes
(b) North West		
Cheshire West	No	No
Cheshire East and Chester	No	No
Halton	No	No
Knowsley	No	No
Liverpool	No	No
Sefton	No	No
St. Helens	No	No
Warrington	No	No
Wirral	Yes	Yes
Wyre	Yes	Yes
Lancaster	Yes	Yes
Fylde	No	No
Blackpool	No	Yes
Barrow-in-Furness	No	No
Copeland	No	Yes
South Lakeland	No	Yes
Ribble Valley	No	Yes
Preston	No	Yes
Rossendale	No	Yes
Blackburn with Darwen	No	Yes
Pendle	No	Yes
Hyndburn	No	No
Burnley	No	Yes
South Ribble	No	No
Chorley	No	Yes
West Lancashire	No	Yes
Carlisle	Yes	Yes
Eden	No	Yes
Allerdale	No	Yes
Bolton	Yes	Yes
Oldham	Yes	Yes
Tameside	Yes	Yes
Manchester	Yes	Yes
Trafford	No	Yes
Salford	No	Yes
Stockport	No	Yes
Rochdale	No	Yes
Bury	No	Yes
Wigan	No	Yes
(c) South West		
Bristol	Yes	Yes
Banes	No	No
South Gloucester	Yes	Yes
North Somerset	No	No
Cheltenham	Yes	No
Cotswold	Yes	Yes
Forest of Dean	Yes	Yes
Gloucester City	No	No
Stroud	No	No
Tewkesbury	No	Yes
Kennet	No	No
North Wiltshire	No	No
Salisbury	Yes	No
West Wiltshire	Yes	No
Swindon	No	No
Cornwall	No	No
Isles of Scilly	No	No
Christchurch	Yes	Yes
Bournemouth	Yes	Yes
Poole	Yes	Yes
West Dorset	Yes	Yes
Weymouth and Portland	Yes	Yes
North Dorset	Yes	Yes
Purbeck	Yes	Yes
Plymouth	Yes	Yes
West Devon	Yes	Yes
South Hams	Yes	Yes
East Devon	Yes	Yes
Exeter	No	No
North Devon	Yes	Yes
Teignbridge	Yes	Yes
Mid Devon	Yes	Yes
Torridge	No	Yes
Torbay	Yes	Yes
Mendip	Yes	Yes
Sedgemoor	No	Yes
Taunton Deane	Yes	Yes
West Somerset	Yes	No
South Somerset	Yes	Yes

[1] Some of the former BAs which make up this unitary authority do, but not all

VAT

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consultation HM Revenue and Customs undertook with businesses prior to the decision to phase out paper-based value added tax returns; [295188]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of posts in HM Revenue and Customs which will no longer be required as a result of the decision to phase out paper-based value added tax returns; [295189]

(3) whether HM Revenue and Customs assessed effects on costs of small businesses of the phasing out of paper-based value added tax returns. [295186]

Mr. Timms: In addition to consultations carried out as part of Lord Carter's review of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Online Services, published at Budget 2006, HMRC conducted a 12 week consultation—concluding on 3 July 2009—on the draft regulations to implement the phasing out of paper-based VAT returns.

HMRC's estimate of the benefits from phasing out paper VAT returns is subject to periodic updating. The staff saving is currently estimated at 26 full-time equivalent staff posts, but this does not include certain areas where the business change effect is still being evaluated.

Very small businesses that are already registered for VAT will not be affected by the proposal to phase out paper VAT returns from 1 April 2010, but any business registering on or after 1 April 2010 will not have the option of making paper based VAT returns. The Impact Assessment undertaken does not differentiate between different sized businesses.

Research has shown that internet use is highest among new businesses and projections indicate that by 2010 internet usage among new businesses will be almost universal.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Trust: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Carbon Trust has provided *for (a)* local authorities, *(b)* NHS bodies, *(c)* higher and further education institutions and *(d)* other public bodies in (i) Mid Bedfordshire constituency and (ii) Bedfordshire in the last 12 months. [295409]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Trust have advised me that at this time it is not possible to provide a comprehensive funding breakdown at a constituency level. However, the total value of carbon management and energy efficiency advice services provided by the Carbon Trust to the public sector in Bedfordshire to date is approximately £202,500, of which £37,500 was in the last 12 months.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [295449]

Joan Ruddock: *(a)* There were no Christmas functions arranged by the Department that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State attended.

(b) This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Climate Change

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment the Government has made of the effects on climate change of *(a)* black carbon and *(b)* improvements in air quality. [292139]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* Research reported in the intergovernmental panel on climate change's fourth assessment report suggest a small, but significant, total warming effect since 1750 from black carbon emitted into the atmosphere by fossil fuel (the main source), biofuel and biomass burning. This effect is estimated to be the equivalent of about one seventh of the total climate warming effect from long lived greenhouse gases. There is also an additional but smaller warming effect due to the deposition of black carbon on surface snow and ice. Recent work by the Met Office Hadley Centre, funded by DECC, suggests black carbon emissions have potentially the second largest warming influence on climate, after greenhouse gases.

The "Air Quality and Climate Change: A UK Perspective, 2007" report by the Air Quality Expert Group considered the effects of air pollutants on air quality and climate change. Improvements in air quality will have a complex influence on climate change, as some pollutants have a direct or indirect warming effect while aerosol emissions other than black carbon have a cooling effect.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Under-Secretary of State expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 16 June 2009, on climate change. [293846]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 23 October and apologise for the unacceptable delay.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons letters sent from Ministers in his Department to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak dated 5 March (ref. DM/117961) and 3 February 2009 (ref. PM/111604) were printed on one side of each sheet of paper only; if he will make it his Department's policy to use two-sided printing for its correspondence; and whether he has made an estimate of the potential savings in respect of paper use consequent on the implementation of such a policy. [293873]

Joan Ruddock: The Department uses duplex (two-sided) printers, and the default setting is for two-sided use. Following older convention, a proportion of letters from my Department has been sent single-sided. However, we are implementing a policy of all correspondence being printed on two-sided paper for the future. We estimate this will lead to a monthly saving of £10.50 in paper costs.

Monitor Group: Meetings

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has had discussions with the Monitor Group. [294648]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* No.

Power Failures: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* EDF Energy and *(b)* Ofgem on the power cuts across Bexley and North West Kent in July 2009. [295183]

Mr. Kidney: Officials from the Department were in regular contact with EDF Energy during the incident to track progress with supply restoration. Following the incident discussions are ongoing to assess compliance with statutory duties and to explore options to prevent a reoccurrence.

Ofgem has informed officials about the impact on regulatory performance targets and the handling of compensation claims for the incident.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis is for each assumption underlying the determination in the Low Carbon Transition Plan that energy demand will remain at 370TWh in 2020. [294376]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The projections used in the Low Carbon Transition Plan are produced using the DECC Energy Model. This uses the latest assumptions of economic growth, fuel prices, estimated policy impacts and elasticities of demand.

The energy demand of 370 TWh relates to electricity demand. In the baseline scenario, electricity demand is projected to increase by 53 TWh between now and 2020 but policies announced in the Low Carbon Transition Plan are estimated to save 54 TWh in 2020. These projections use economic growth assumptions consistent with the 2009 Budget and fossil fuel price assumptions published by DECC.

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/projections/projections.aspx

JUSTICE

Coroners: Armed forces

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for each member of the armed forces killed in action overseas in respect of whom the inquest has not started, when *(a)* the body was repatriated and *(b)* the inquest is expected to begin. [295336][1]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the dates on which service personnel fatalities were repatriated, and the current position regarding the resumption of inquests which have been opened and adjourned pending service inquiries or other investigations. On 27 October my hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces (Bill Rammell) and I will make the latest in the series of quarterly statements to the House about the inquests of service personnel and others who have died overseas.

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Corporal Mike Gilyeat	30 May 2007	8 June 2007	27 October 2009
Private Aaron McClure	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc). 12 September 2009
Private Robert Foster	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc). 12 September 2009
Private John Thrumble	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc). 12 September
Aircraftman Christopher Bridge	30 August 2007	7 September 2007	7-8 December 2009
Lance Corporal Sarah Holmes	14 October 2007	L/Cpl Holmes died in England	3 November 2009
Sergeant John Battersby	20 November 2007	26 November 2007	Inquest resumed 17 August 2009, adjourned 21 August 2009 to 7 September 12.09
Trooper Lee Fitzsimmons	20 November 2007	26 November 2007	Inquest resumed 17 August 2009, adjourned 21 August 2009 to 7 September 2009
Sergeant Lee Johnson	8 December 2007	17 December 2007	—
Guardsman Stephen Ferguson	9 December 2007	Gdsmn Ferguson died in England	—
Senior Aircraftman Graham Livingstone	13 April 20 08	18 April 20 08	10-11 November 2009
Senior Aircraftman Gary Thompson	13April 20 08	18 April 20 08	10-11 November 2009
Trooper James Thompson	19 May 2008	26 May 2008	5 November 2009
Corporal Sarah Bryant	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Corporal Sean Reeve	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Lance Corporal Richard Larkin	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Trooper Paul Stout	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Warrant Officer 2 Michael Williams	24 June 2008	30 June 2008	—
Lance Corporal James Johnson	28 June 2008	7 July 2008	—
Lance Corporal Kenneth Rowe	24 July 2008	28 July 2008	12 November 2009
Signaller Wayne Bland	11 August 2008	18 August 2008	—
Ranger Justin James Cupples	4 September 2008	12 September 2008	18 November 2009
Lance Corporal Nicky Mason	13 September 2008	19 September 2008	18 December 2009
Lance Corporal David Wilson	4 December 2008	11 December 2008	—
Corporal Lee Churcher	11 December 2008	17 December 2008	—
Marine Damian Davies	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Sergeant John Manuel	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Corporal Marc Birch	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Lance Corporal Steven "Jamie" Fellows	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Lieutenant Aaron Lewis	15 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Rifleman Stuart Nash	17 December 2008	22 December 2008	—

1.*[Official Report, 23 November 2009, Vol. 501, c. 6MC.]*

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Corporal Robert Deering	21 December 2008	30 December 2008	—
Serjeant Chris Reed	1 January 2009	7 January 2009	—
Marine Travis Mackin	11 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Captain Tom Sawyer	14 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Corporal Da[illegible]y Winter	14 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Acting Corp[illegible] Richard Robinson	17 January 2009	24 January 2009	—
Corporal Danie[illegible]ld	30 January 2009	3 February.09	—
Private Ryan Wrathall	12 February 2009	19 February 2009	—
Marine Darren Smith	14 February 2009	24 February	—
Lance Corporal Stephen Kingscott	16 February	24 February	23 October 2009
Marine Michael Laski	25. February	Mne Laski died in England	—
Lance Corporal Christopher Harkett	14 March 2009	21 March 2009	—
Corporal Dean John	15 March 2009	21 March 2009	—
Corporal Graeme Stiff	15 March 2009	21 March 2009	—
Lance Sergeant Tobie Fasfous	28 April 20 09	5 May 2009	—
Corporal Sean Binnie	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	—
Rifleman Adrian Sheldon	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	—
Sergeant Ben Ross	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	27 November 2009
Corporal Kumar Pun	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	27 November 2009
Lieutenant Mark Evison	12 May 2009	Lt Evison died in England	—
Marine Jason Mackie	14 May 2009	22 May 2009	—
Fusilier Petero Suesue	22 May 2009	29 May 2009	2 December 2009
Sapper Jordan Rossi	23 May 2009	29 May 2009	—
Lance Corporal Robert Richards	27 May 2009	L/Cpl Richards died in England	—
Lance Corporal Kieron Hill	28 May 2009	1 June 2009	—
Lance Corporal Nigel Moffett	30 May 2009	5 June 2009	—
Corporal Steven Bolger	30 May 2009	5 June 2009	—
Rifleman Cyrus Thatcher	2 June 2009	5 June 2009	—
Private Robert McLaren	11 June 2009	16 June 2009	—
Lieutenant Paul Mervis	12 June 2009	16 June 2009	—
Major Sean Birchall	19 June 2009	26 June 2009	—
Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Thorneloe	1 July 2009	6 July 2009	—
Trooper Joshua Hammond	1 July 2009	6 July 2009	—
Lance Corporal David Dennis	4 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Trooper Robert Laws	4 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Lance Corporal Dane Elson	5 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Captain Ben Babington-Browne	6 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Trooper Christopher Whiteside	7 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Hume	9 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Private John Brackpool	9 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Corporal Lee Scott	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Corporal Jonathan Horne	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman William Aldridge	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman James Backhouse	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Joseph Murphy	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Simpson	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Aminiasi Toge	16 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Corporal Joseph Etchells	19 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Captain Daniel Shepherd	20 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Guardsman Christopher King	22 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Bombardier Craig Hopson	25 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Trooper Philip Lawrence	27 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Warrant Officer 2 Sean Upton	27 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Craftsman Anthony Lombardi	4 August 2009	7 August 2009	—
Corporal Kevin Mulligan	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Lance Corporal Dale Hopkins	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Private Kyle Adams	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Private Jason Williams	8 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Captain Mark Hale	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Wild	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Lance Bombardier Matthew Hatton	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Sergeant Simon Valentine	15 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Private Richard Hunt	15 August 2009	Pte Hunt died in England	—

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Lance Corporal James Fullarton	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Fusilier Simon Annis	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Fusilier Louis Carter	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Serjeant Paul McAleese	20 August 2009	27 August 2009	—
Private Johnathon Young	20 August 2009	27 August 2009	—
Fusilier Shaun Bush	25 August 2009	Fus Bush died in England	—
Sergeant Lee Houltram	29 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Sergeant Stuart Millar	31 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Private Kevin Elliott	31 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Lance Corporal Richard Brandon	2 September 2009	10 September 2009	—
Private Gavin Elliott	3 September 2009	10 September 2009	—
Trooper Brett Hall	16 September 2009	Tpr Hall died in England	—
Corporal John Harrison	9 September 2009	17 September 2009	—
Kingsman Jason Dunn-Bridgeman	13 September 2009	17 September 2009	—
Acting Serjeant Stuart McGrath	16 September 2009	24 September 2009	—
Acting Sergeant Michael Lockett MC	21 September 2009	29 September 2009	—
Private James Prosser	27 September 2009	1 October 2009	—
Acting Corporal Marcin Wojtak	1 October 2009	9 October 2009	—
Guardsman Jamie Janes	5 October 2009	9 October 2009	—
Lance Corporal James Hill	8 October 2009	15 October 2009	—

Corruption

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date he expects to publish his Department's anti-corruption plan for 2009. [295876]

Mr. Straw: The publication of a Foreign Bribery Strategy is expected before the end of the year.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 991W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment in the last three months. [299172]

Mr. Wills: During the period in question, the Ministry had one main supplier for the provision of flat screen televisions, DVD players and stereo equipment. The contract for this supplier has been in place since October 2008. Prior to this, there had been one main supplier for such goods for the National Offender Management Service but this contract was not open to the wider MOJ for use. Since November 2008, the expenditure on these items with the current main supplier by the Ministry is as follows:

	£
Flat Screen Televisions	139,676
DVD Players and Recorders	11,358
Stereo Equipment	3,648
Total	154,682

This contract is available to MoJ headquarters and its executive agencies (HM Courts Service, Tribunals Service, the Office of The Public Guardian, and the National Offender Management Service). The figure may, however, be incomplete as some equipment may have been purchased outside of the contract using the Government Procurement Card (GPC). To investigate whether any flat screen televisions, DVD players or stereo equipment had been purchased with the GPC card would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 993-95W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in the 2008-09 financial year. [279239]

Mr. Straw: In 2008-09 the Department and its agencies spent the following amounts (excluding VAT):

	£
Flat screen televisions	159,138
DVD players	10,904
Stereo equipment	21,853
Total	191,895

These figures exclude HM Courts Service, where the information could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

The significant increase in HQ expenditure in 2008-09 is a result of the refurbishment of the new consolidated building in 102 Petty France which has itself enabled £10 million savings as part of the MoJ Estates Strategy. The whole building was gutted, and re-fitted. In addition this is the first year that full information on these items has been available for NOMS expenditure.

In collating the information to this response it has been brought to my attention that there were factual errors in the answer to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 994-96W.

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Wills) will be writing to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge to correct these errors and will issue a corrected answer to be printed in the correction section of the *Official Report*.

I apologise for these errors and for the unacceptable delay in providing an answer to this question.

Gambling: Crime

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of offences under *(a)* section 328, *(b)* section 330 and *(c)* section 331 of the Gambling Act 2005 since its entry into force. [295318]

Claire Ward: Sections 328, 330 and 331 of the 2005 Gambling Act came into force on 1 September 2007. No convictions under theses offences from 1 September to 31 December 2007 (latest published) have been reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Legal Aid

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Legal Services Commission permits consortium bids for funding on social welfare cases. [294863]

Bridget Prentice: The "Community Legal Services Strategy" published in 2006 advocates a new approach of moving towards more integrated advice services that better reflect the way in which clients experience legal problems.

In order for providers to move towards the objective of delivering integrated services, providers will be able to bid in consortia for the delivery of core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories: debt, housing and welfare benefits. These core SWL categories were identified as being those that tend to be most interlinked when addressing clients' SWL problems. For example, a client facing eviction from a private landlord may also be experiencing debt and welfare benefits problems. In order to provide an efficient and effective service for this client, it is important that the provider from whom the client seeks advice is able to offer assistance across the range of problems that the client is experiencing.

Offences Against Children: Convictions

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of offences against children committed in *(a)* schools, *(b)* sports clubs and *(c)* dental surgeries have received a custodial sentence of (i) between six months and two years and (ii) two years or more since 1979; and how many had previous convictions. [295322]

Claire Ward: Information held centrally by my Department does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought; therefore the Ministry of Justice cannot identify all offences against children or if the offence was committed in a school, sports club or dental surgery.

Prison Accommodation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many additional prison places his Department plans to provide in each year between 2008 and 2015; and what the total prison capacity will be in each such year; [295383]

(2) when he expects work to start on each of the five 1,500 capacity prisons his Department has proposed as an alternative to Titan prisons; and what the annual capital cost of constructing them will be in each year to 2014-15. [295386]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice aims to increase capacity to 96,000 prison places by 2014 which includes delivering an additional 20,000 prison places through the Capacity Programme. The precise numbers and delivery timings will depend on construction schedules and prioritisation within the prisons estate.

The procurement process for the five 1,500 capacity prisons, known as the New Prisons Programme, is already under way. An OJEU notice to establish a private finance initiative (PFI) framework for firms who could design, build and operate these prisons was published on 3 August 2009. We anticipate appointing up to seven firms onto the framework in spring next year with the first prison being operational in 2013. Under the design, build and operate contracts, National Offender Management Service, will not pay a capital cost for construction and operation, and will instead be charged a single revenue stream covering these elements for the full period of the PFI contracts. It is therefore not possible to identify the capital cost of construction. However, we estimate the total cost of the five new prisons to be in the region of £1.2 billion (at 2008-09 prices and excluding VAT and site purchase costs).

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated annual capital cost of his Department's plan for additional prison capacity is for each year to 2014-15. [295385]

Maria Eagle: The estimated annual capital costs for additional prison capacity for the current prison building programme (excluding the 1,500 place new prisons) for each year up to 2013-14 are set out in the following table:

Current forecast

	Capital (£ million)
2009-10	410
2010-11	280
2011-12	307
2012-13	0
2013-14	0

The 8,500 programme and expansion measure programme is expected to finish in 2011-12. Further capacity will be provided by the New Prisons programme.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving sentences for *(a)* murder, *(b)* attempted murder, *(c)* rape and *(d)* attempted rape are currently unlawfully at large having escaped or absconded from prison. [295849]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows that there is only one offender currently unlawfully at large who was serving a sentence for any of the four index offences named. Data prior to the periods shown in the table are not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Absconds (which are from open prisons) and escapes (from closed prisons) have been falling for some years and 2008-09 recorded the lowest number of absconds and escapes on record. Tracking down prisoners unlawfully at large who may be a danger to the public is taken very seriously by the police and 96 per cent. of absconded prisoners are rearrested and returned to custody.

Prisoners still unlawfully at large in October 2009 following an escape or abscond and broken down by specific index offences

	Prisoners unlawfully at large with an index offence of:			
	Murder	*Attempted murder*	*Rape*	*Attempted rape*
Escapes since 1 April 1998	0	0	0	0
Absconds since 1 April 2004	1	0	0	0

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of keeping a person in prison was *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available. [295817]

Maria Eagle: The average direct establishment cost of keeping a person in prison for the years since 1997 is shown in the following table:

Average cost per prisoner

	£
2006-07	26,737
2005-06	26,993
2004-05	26,412
2003-04	25,718
2002-03	24,241
2001-02	23,105
2000-01	23,292
1999-2000	21,751
1998-99	20,502

For these years the average costs comprise the public sector establishments' direct resource expenditure as published in the Annual Report and Accounts of Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS).

For the last two years (2008-09 and 2007-08) an overall cost per prisoner including prison related costs met by NOMS outside of HMPS has been calculated as follows:

Overall average cost per prisoner

	£
2008-09	41,000
2007-08	39,000

The overall average costs comprise the public sector establishments' direct resource expenditure, increased by an apportionment of costs borne centrally by HMPS and the National Offender Management Service; and the resource expenditure of contracted-out prisons also increased by certain costs borne centrally. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include prisoners held in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. for health and education). The prisoner escort service is included.

Prisons

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the risk of disorder in prisons in England and Wales. [295325]

Maria Eagle: While major disorder within prisons is notoriously difficult to predict the National Offender Management Service does monitor routinely the stability of prisons both at local and national level.

The latest assessment shows that, although roof climbs and other incidents at height have increased, other incidents relating to disorder such as concerted indiscipline, barricades, hostage taking and assaults, have not shown an overall increase and in some cases have decreased. Staff continue to perform an excellent job in maintaining control and order within prison establishments.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of levels of overcrowding in prisons in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [295324]

Maria Eagle: At the end of September 2009, 24.1 per cent. of prisoners in England and Wales were held in overcrowded accommodation.

It remains our priority to reduce overcrowding by increasing capacity through building new prisons, expanding existing prisons and making more effective use of the estate.

Road Traffic Offences

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* all traffic collisions and *(b)* traffic collisions on motorways resulted in a criminal prosecution in the latest period for which figures are available. [294715]

Claire Ward: Information available on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on offences involving vehicles does not identify the circumstances which resulted in a prosecution. A defendant might be proceeded against for an offence of careless driving, dangerous driving, driving while impaired by drink or drugs etc. Any of these offences might directly or indirectly have caused or helped cause a collision.

While the Department for Transport monitors details of road traffic injury accidents this information is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecution.

Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced to immediate custody in each year since 1997; and how many received sentences of *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* between three and six months, *(c)* between six and 12 months and *(d)* one year or more. [295806]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Number of people sentenced to immediate custody since 1997

Sentence lengths	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Up to and including 3 months	35,054	39,427	43,059	41,585	40,884	42,542	40,754	39,707	37.100	34,712	34,427
Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months	22,217	24,314	26,203	28,514	29.030	29,419	29.498	28,492	26,756	24.422	23,109
Over 6 months and less than 12 months	5,808	5.963	5,573	6,419	6.337	6,590	6,038	6,346	6.462	6.401	6.779
12 months or more including indeterminate sentences	30,762	30,862	30,488	29,669	30,022	33,056	31,380	31,777	30,918	30.482	30,891
Total	93,841	100,566	105,323	106,187	106,273	111,607	107,670	106,322	101,236	96,017	95,206

Notes:

1. Sentences of imprisonment for public protection introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty was imposed: where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

This table has been taken from table 2.3 of 'Sentencing Statistics 2007' publication available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Data for 2008 will be published in January 2010.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were serving sentences of *(a)* fewer than three months, *(b)* between three and six months and *(c)* between six and 12 months in 2009. [295816]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the numbers of prisoners serving sentences of (i) less than or equal to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months, as at 30 June 2009, the latest date for which figures are available:

	Less than or equal to 3 months	*Greater than 3 months less than or equal to 6 months*	*Greater than 6 months less than 12 months*
Males and females	1,785	3,330	2,465

The figures are a reworking of those published in the Ministry of Justice monthly bulletin at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people per 10,000 of the population in Northern Ireland were prosecuted for non-payment of the television licence fee in 2008. [295473]

Bridget Prentice: In 2008, 5,272 people were prosecuted for non-payment of the television licence fee representing a rate of 30 per 10,000 of the population. 4,123 people were convicted and 1,149 cases were dismissed or withdrawn.

CABINET OFFICE

Unemployment: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley had been unemployed for more than (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [295560]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (b) the London Borough of Bexley had been unemployed for more than (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. (295560)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age bands and geographies are not available. As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons, aged 16 to 24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, in the requested geographies, for (a) over 6 months and (b) over 12 months in September 2009 and the previous 11 months.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim

	Bexleyheath and Crayford		*Bexley*	
Duration	*Over six months*	*Over 12 months*	*Over six months*	*Over 12 months*
October 2008	25	5	70	20
November 2008	25	0	65	15
December 2008	25	5	65	15
January 2009	30	5	85	20
February 2009	35	5	110	20
March 2009	45	5	140	20
April 2009	65	5	170	20
May 2009	70	5	185	20
June 2009	80	5	190	20
July 2009	80	5	190	20
August 2009	105	5	250	25
September 2009	110	10	260	30

[1] Duration of claims is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

Note:

Data rounded to nearest 5.

Source:

Jobcentreplus Administrative System

Unemployment: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Peterborough city council area and *(b)* Peterborough constituency had been unemployed for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [295115]

(2) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Peterborough city council area and *(b)* Peterborough constituency were unemployed in (i) May 1997 and (ii) in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [295116]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in (a) Peterborough city council area and (b) Peterborough constituency had been unemployed for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in (a) Peterborough city council area and (b) Peterborough constituency were unemployed in (i) May 1997 and (ii) in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. (295115 & 295116)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age bands and geographies are not available. As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons, aged 16 to 24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, in the requested geographies, for (i) over 6 months and (ii) over 12 months in September 2009 and the previous 11 months. Table 2 contains the number of persons aged 16 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the requested geographies for (i) May 1997 and (ii) September 2009 and the previous 11 months.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance in Peterborough city council area and Peterborough parliamentary constituency for over six months and 12 months

	Peterborough city council		*Peterborough constituency*	
	Claiming over six months	*Claiming over 12 months*	*Claiming over six months*	*Claiming over 12 months*
October 2008	110	5	75	5
November 2008	80	5	55	5
December 2008	95	5	65	5
January 2009	105	5	70	5
February 2009	115	5	75	5
March 2009	145	5	90	5

Table 1: Number of people aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance in Peterborough city council area and Peterborough parliamentary constituency for over six months and 12 months

	Peterborough city council		*Peterborough constituency*	
	Claiming over six months	*Claiming over 12 months*	*Claiming over six months*	*Claiming over 12 months*
April 2009	160	10	95	5
May 2009	205	10	135	5
June 2009	220	10	150	5
July 2009	205	10	140	5
August 2009	270	10	175	5
September 2009	315	15	210	10

Notes:

1. Data has been rounded to the nearest five.
2. People claiming for over 12 months are included in the counts of people claiming for over six months.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 2: Number of people aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance in Peterborough city council area and Peterborough parliamentary constituency

	Peterborough city council	*Peterborough constituency*
May 1997	1,275	925
October 2008	925	630
November 2008	990	675
December 2008	1,080	740
January 2009	1,205	815
February 2009	1,545	1,035
March 2009	1,655	1,105
April 2009	1,685	1,110
May 2009	1,685	1,115
June 2009	1,705	1,110
July 2009	1,560	1,035
August 2009	1,650	1,110
September 2009	1,705	1,145

Note:

Data has been rounded to nearest five.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Unemployment: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged between 16 and 24 had been unemployed in Leeds West constituency for over *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months on the latest date for which figures are available. [295352]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 were unemployed in Leeds West constituency for over (a) six and (b) 12 months on the latest date for which figures are available. (295352)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age band and geography are not available. As an alternative, we have provided the number of persons, aged between 16 and 24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in September 2009 for over (a) six months and (b) 12 months, from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

In September 2009 the number of persons aged between 16 and 24 claiming JSA resident in the Leeds West constituency for over (a) six months was 255 and (b) over 12 months was 25.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Young People: Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency had been claiming jobseeker's allowance for *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 months and two years and *(d)* more than two years on the latest date for which figures are available. [294261]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency had been claiming jobseeker's allowance for *(a)* less then six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 months and two years and *(d)* more than two years on the latest date for which figures are available. (294261)

Table 1, attached, shows the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for people, aged 16 or over resident in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency on 10 September 2009, broken down by the duration of the claim.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.ca.uk

Table 1: Claimants' of jobseeker's allowance resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency by duration of claim, 10 September 2009

Duration	*Number*
Up to 26 weeks	1,315
Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks	395
Over 52 weeks u p to 104 weeks	130
Over 104 weeks	10

Notes:
1. Data rounded to nearest 5.
2. Duration is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims. *Source:* Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to accident and emergency departments in hospitals in *(a)* Bassetlaw primary care trust and *(b)* Nottinghamshire County Teaching primary care trust in the last three years for which figures are available; and how many such patients spent more than four hours in such departments following admission. [294969]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested.

Accident and emergency (A&E) data collected centrally are by provider and not by commissioning primary care trust (PCT). Data have therefore been set out in the following table for the relevant providers. For Nottinghamshire County PCT, the providers are Nottingham University Hospital National Health Service (NHS) Trust (from Quarter 2 2006-07), Queen's Medical Centre (part of Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust) (Quarter 1 2006-07 only), and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. For Bassetlaw PCT, the provider is Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust.

These are the data submitted to the Department and subsequently published. We are aware of a review of the data at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, and therefore these data may change.

Total time spent in A&E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge, acute trusts in England, including activity at partner PCTs

			All A&E/minor injuries units/walk-in centres (Type 1, 2, 3)		
	Quarter	*Name*	*Total attendances*	*Percentage of patients who spent less than four hours in A&E*	*Breaches*
2009-10	1	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39,810	98.3	688
2008-09	4	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	37,078	98.7	468
2008-09	3	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	37,365	98.3	633
2008-09	2	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39,203	98.3	647
2008-09	1	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39,763	98.5	615
2007-08	4	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	36,422	97.6	871
2007-08	3	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	37,181	97.8	800
2007-08	2	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39,139	98.4	610
2007-08	1	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39,513	98.3	668
2006-07	4	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	36,909	98.3	641
2006-07	3	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	37,212	99.3	256
2006-07	2	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39,771	98.5	615
2006-07	1	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39,416	98.1	760
2009-10	1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	71,083	99.3	470
2008-09	4	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	64,740	98.8	747
2008-09	3	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	63,765	97.5	1,589
2008-09	2	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	63,822	98.8	769
2008-09	1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	66,415	98.3	1,153
2007-08	4	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	61,702	97.1	1,811

Total time spent in A&E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge, acute trusts in England, including activity at partner PCTs

			All A&E/minor injuries units/walk-in centres (Type 1, 2, 3)		
	Quarter	*Name*	*Total attendances*	*Percentage of patients who spent less than four hours in A&E*	*Breaches*
2007-08	3	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	61,884	97.9	1,307
2007-08	2	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	63,755	98.7	831
2007-08	1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	65,727	99.0	631
2006-07	4	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	62,153	97.1	1,772
2006-07	3	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	61,294	97.1	1,800
2006-07	2	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	62,918	97.7	1,437
2006-07	1	Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	62,339	97.7	1,428
2009-10	1	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	25,631	97.7	590
2008-09	4	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	23,807	98.2	438
2008-09	3	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	24,066	97.8	523
2008-09	2	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	25,063	98.3	434
2008-09	1	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	25,968	98.3	432
2007-08	4	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	24,426	97.4	642
2007-08	3	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	24,327	98.4	390
2007-08	2	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	25,895	98.2	464
2007-08	1	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	26,009	98.9	279
2006-07	4	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	24,991	96.7	819
2006-07	3	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	25,375	98.4	411
2006-07	2	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	26,888	98.3	455
2006-07	1	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	27,113	98.8	317

Notes:

1. Mapped data for each hospital has been provided. Any treatment provided by PCT-managed minor injuries units and walk-in centres are mapped to the relevant Type 1 (Major A&E) Unit.
2. Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust also has a Type 1 A&E Department at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, which is based within Doncaster PCT.
3. Nottingham University Hospital and the Queen's Medical Centre are based in Nottingham City PCT, not within Nottinghamshire County PCT.

Source:

Department of Health dataset QMAE.

Carers: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carers are registered in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire. [294762]

Phil Hope: Carers may register with a range of organisations for different purposes—there is no single register as such.

The number of carers who care for a person aged 18 and over who are offered a carer's assessment or review during the year (1 April to 31 March) is collected annually from councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities on the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care returns. Provisional data for 2008-09 were published in September.

8,700 carers in Derbyshire county council and 1,700 carers in Derby unitary authority were offered an assessment or review in 2008-09.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* the then Secretary of State, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [295444]

GREAT BRITAIN HOUSE OF COMMONS PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD) 2008/2009

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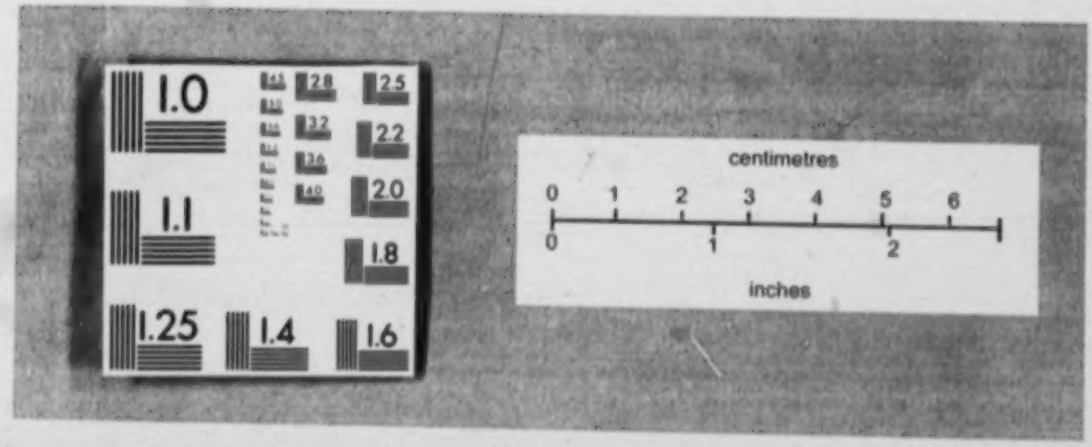

Phil Hope: The then Secretary of State attended the annual Christmas drinks arranged by the Department for journalists on 16 December 2008. The Department did not host any other official Christmas functions last year. Information about functions hosted by agencies is not held centrally.

Continuing Care

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 50,000 of the population received continuing care in each primary care trust area in England in each quarter of 2008. [294767]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State (Mr. Mike O'Brien) on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1979-984W.

Dental Services

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of people in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England who have access to an NHS dentist. [295305]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of patients seen by an national health service dentist in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the population is available in Table E4 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008/09' report. Information is provided by primary care trust and strategic health authority in England and is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2009.

This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* the Minister, *(b)* his advisers and *(c)* officials of his Department saw the notes of the visits by the Chief Dental Officer or his representatives to (i) maxillofacial and (ii) dental hospitals which were subsequently used in the production of the report by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board on oral and maxillofacial surgery. [295835]

Ann Keen: As the report indicated, the terms of the review did not extend to formal reporting on the visits. Departmental officials who were members of the review group have seen any notes taken. The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board is an independent regulatory body.

Dental Services: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists were providing NHS services in Leeds West constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [295347]

Ann Keen: The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the year ending 31 March 2009 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008/09' report. Information is provided for England and by strategic health authority and primary care trust, but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 19 August 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on The Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on advertising *(a)* in the printed press, *(b)* on television and *(c)* on radio in each of the last three years. [295208]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the Department's spend on press, television and radio advertising in each of the last three complete financial years.

It should be noted that the figures will not cover the Department's complete spend on advertising as other media (posters, cinema, online) will also have been used during the period.

£

Financial year	*Press advertising*	*Regional press advertising*	*Television advertising*	*Radio advertising*
2006-07	3,800,000	780,000	11,050,000	3,530,000
2007-08	4,080,000	850,000	10,250,000	3,160,000
2008-09	10,710,000	1,170,000	23,730,000	5,100,000

Notes:

1. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, COI commission and VAT).

2. These figures do not include the Departments recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000 and all sums have been rounded to the nearest £10,000.

3. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by NHS organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that these figures reflect central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

Source:

Central Office of Information (COI)

Departmental Energy

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has a strategy for voltage optimisation in its estate. [295277]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently sourcing voltage optimiser products for use within departmental buildings as part of our sustainable development measures to reduce energy consumption.

Elderly: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of people aged 75 years and over who have a disability or limiting long-term illness in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* the city of Leeds. [295355]

Phil Hope: Data on the number of people aged 75 years and over who have a disability or limiting long-term illness are not collected centrally.

Data on the number of people receiving social services funded either fully or partially by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in England are collected and published by the Information Centre for health and social care as part of the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) return. Provisional data for 2008-09 was published in September 2009.

During the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, the number of adults aged 65 and over with physical disabilities, frailty or a sensory impairment receiving a social care service funded either partly or wholly by their CASSR following a community care assessment by Leeds city council was 10,060.

Data are not centrally available at constituency level.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care.

Health Service Commissioner: Public Service

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Health Service Ombudsman is unable to investigate matters relating to public service personnel. [295463]

Ann Keen: Personnel matters are a specific exemption under the Ombudsman's legislation: section 7(1) of the Health Service Commissioners Act 1993, and paragraph 10(1) of schedule 3 of the Parliamentary Commissioners Act 1967.

Health Services: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* local authorities will be expected to provide towards the proposed new regime of free care for the elderly. [292741]

Phil Hope: The commitment to offer free personal care at home to those with the highest needs is expected to cost up to £670 million per full year. The Government, through the Department of Health, will provide the bulk of this funding (an estimated £420 million per full year) for this historic first step towards a national care service. However, it is right that councils play their part alongside central Government. The remainder of the funding will come from efficiencies in local government which has already delivered £1.764 billion in 2008-09, is due to have delivered at least £3.2 billion by the end of 2009-10, with a target to deliver £5.5 billion over the comprehensive spending review period.

Health Services: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2238W, on health services: Travelling people, what benefits he expects Travellers to receive as a consequence of the Friends, Families and Travellers scheme. [294910]

Phil Hope: The Department's funding for the Friends, Families and Travellers scheme is expected to support better access to healthcare for Travellers by establishing three centres of regional excellence in the South East, East of England and South West. Working in partnership with Gypsy and Traveller communities, the national health service and other stakeholders, the centres will help develop and deliver better services for Gypsies and Travellers and enable their good practice to be spread to other regions.

Health Visitors: Training

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mechanisms are for funding of training health visitors; and how much such funding is being provided by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* private sources in 2009-10. [295460]

Ann Keen: Health visitor training is funded from the £4.6 billion multi-professional education and training budget (MPET) allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) and is commissioned by SHAs. Within the overall MPET resources allocated, it is a matter for each SHA to determine their own priorities including how much is spent on post-registration training commissions for health visitors. Under the current service level agreement with SHAs, each SHA is expected to provide for investment in training commissions based on long term workforce need and local financial plans.

Information on how much funding is being provided for health visitor training from private sources in 2009-10 is not held centrally.

Incontinence: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has made for children's continence services in the next five years. [295468]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made specific new plans for children's continence services.

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (the NSF) included guidance on the importance of joined up continence services for children and young people.

In October 2007 the Department published a Continence Exemplar. This was one in a series of exemplar journeys (patient pathways), illustrating key themes in the NSF and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079004

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Infectious Diseases: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of *(a)* clostridium difficile and *(b)* MRSA infection in (i) Bassetlaw primary care trust and (ii) Nottinghamshire County Teaching primary care trust was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [294930]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of Clostridium difficile infections, broken down by requested primary care trust (PCT) level, is available since 2007-08 and has been set out in the following table.

Clostridium difficile

	Number of cases	Rate per 100,000 population
Bassetlaw PCT		
2007-08	52	47.6
2008-09	49	44.8
Nottinghamshire County PCT		
2007-08	820	127
2008-09	452	70

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Data on methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections have published at acute trust level only. The information is therefore not available in the format requested. Data for the Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust have been set out in the following table.

MRSA bacteraemia

	Number of cases	Rate per 100,000 population
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
2006-07	44	1.66
2007-08	36	1.43
2008-09	31	1.24
Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust		
2006-07	26	0.77
2007-08	26	0.77
2008-09	13	0.39

Notes:
1. No acute trust headquarters are located in Bassetlaw PCT. However, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is located in Nottinghamshire Country Teaching PCT. Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust is located in Doncaster PCT.
2. Services at Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust are mainly commissioned by Doncaster PCT.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Mental Health: Prisoners

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners in each strategic health authority region have been transferred to a secure mental health unit in each of the last five years. [295326]

Phil Hope: The quarterly regional Prison Health Performance and Quality Indicators introduced in 2007-08, provide information about transfers of prisoners requiring inpatient treatment for mental disorder. Prior to this period, information is available on a quarterly basis but is not broken down by health authority regions.

Total numbers of transfers under all sections of the Mental Health Act 1983 per quarter

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
2005-06	285	277	315	266	1,143
2006-07	300	313	341	264	1,218
2007-08	296	300	319	280	1,195
2008-09	342	307	335	294	1,278
2009-10	320	—	—	—	—

Data covering the year 2007-08 are incomplete. Complete information broken down by strategic health authority regions and Wales for the year 2008-09 is in the following table.

Transfers under all sections of the Mental Health Act by strategic health authority 2008-09

Region	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
North East	21	13	11	11	56
Yorks and Humber	34	19	32	30	115
North West	43	37	44	40	164
East Midlands	28	24	27	16	95
West Midlands	25	18	22	23	88
Eastern	17	26	30	34	107
London	85	79	81	71	316

Transfers under all sections of the Mental Health Act by strategic health authority 2008-09

Region	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Total*
South East	46	51	54	47	198
South West	34	27	27	13	101
Wales	9	13	7	9	38
Total	342	307	335	294	1,278

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken since the publication of Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system to improve the identification of mental health problems or learning disabilities among prisoners on their reception into prison. [295327]

Phil Hope: Lord Bradley made 82 recommendations, many of which Lord Bradley himself recognised needed further work to ensure that all implications are considered for children, young people and adults. The Government have accepted the direction set out in the report and has committed to report to Parliament on the progress made by the end of October.

A Health and Criminal Justice National Programme Board has been fully operational since June 2009 bringing together senior officials in the key Departments (Department of Health, Ministry of Justice, Home Office, Department for Children, Schools and Families). The Programme Board has been meeting monthly to pull together a national delivery plan and ensure appropriate cross-government representation and engagement as actions are being developed.

The first objective of the Programme Board has been to develop a national delivery plan that will set out our shared vision for improving health and social care services for all those in touch with the criminal justice system including reviewing arrangements for reception for those entering prison. The newly established Health and Criminal Justice Programme Board have been working hard to ensure that all the Bradley recommendations are fully incorporated into this cross-government plan.

Ministers are due to report to parliament by the end of this month on progress in this regard.

Myelodysplastic Syndromes: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords, *(c)* patient groups and *(d)* clinicians on treatment and care for people diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS); what his policy on such care and treatment is; and if he will make a statement. [295038]

Ann Keen: Since the beginning of the 2008-09 parliamentary year, the Department has received four parliamentary questions and at least 25 items of correspondence relating to myelodysplastic syndromes. Of these, 15 were from hon. Members, one from a Member of the House of Lords and nine from members of the public.

The 2003 "Improving Outcomes in Haematological Cancers" guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) sets out recommendations about the care and treatment of patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), with the emphasis on symptom control and supportive treatment.

It is for the national health service locally to implement this guidance. Good progress has been made and the National Cancer Action Team continue to work with the NHS at a local level to ensure full implementation.

NICE is currently appraising azacitidine for the treatment of MDS, and currently expects to publish final guidance on this drug in May 2010.

NHS: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report,* columns 1169-72W, on NHS: finance, how much each loan was for; when each loan was taken out; and how much is expected to be repaid in respect of each loan. [294923]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department makes loans to national health services trusts and national health service foundation trusts. The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take for implementing a patient's right to make choices about their healthcare through statutory directions to primary care trusts; and whether those directions will be published. [295502]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The primary care trusts 'Choice of Secondary Care Provider Directions 2009' were published alongside the NHS Constitution on 21 January 2009 and came into effect on 1 April 2009. The directions place a number of new duties on primary care trusts, including a duty to make arrangements to ensure that patients who need an elective referral are offered a choice of any clinically appropriate provider. The directions have been placed in the Library.

Prescription Drugs: Licensing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on making decisions about the post-licence use of new medicines; and if he will make a statement. [295037]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have issued a statutory funding direction which, unless it has been amended or waived for a specific treatment, requires national health service organisations to make funding available for treatments recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) within three months of publication of final technology appraisal guidance.

New statutory directions were issued to primary care trusts and NHS trusts concerning decisions about medicines and other treatments where there is no positive NICE recommendation. These came into force on 1 April 2009 and are supported by guiding principles and good practice guidance.

Prescription Drugs: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of *(a)* all medicines dispensed and *(b)* medicines dispensed to patients aged 60 years and over by the NHS in North Yorkshire and York was in each year since 1996-97. [295228]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Information showing the net ingredient cost of medicines dispensed via an FP10 prescription in primary care within the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust for the period September 2004 to August 2009 is shown in the following table.

The cost of medicines dispensed for patients aged 60 years and over is not available.

Information showing the net ingredient cost of medicines dispensed via an FP10 prescription in primary care within the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust for the period September 2004 to August 2009

	Number of items (Thousand)	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*	*Average net ingredient cost per item (£)*
September 2004	914	9,942	10.88
October 2004	947	9,976	10.54
November 2004	942	10,067	10.69
December 2004	976	10,577	10.83
January 2005	871	9,496	10.90
February 2005	824	8,586	10.42
March 2005	925	9,647	10.44
September 2004 to March 2005	6,398	68,291	10.67
April 2005	940	9,522	10.13
May 2005	911	9,223	10.12
June 2005	968	9,798	10.12
July 2005	925	9,227	9.97
August 2005	942	9,452	10.03
September 2005	967	9,811	10.15
October 2005	1,020	10,099	9.90
November 2005	1,004	10,096	10.06
December 2005	993	10,242	10.31
January-2006	935	9,652	10.32
February 2006	881	9,096	10.32
March 2006	1,011	10,273	10.16
Total for year 2005-06	11,498	116,492	10.13
April 2006	892	9,087	10.19
May 2006	972	9,901	10.19
June 2006	999	10,092	10.11
July 2006	945	9,723	10.29
August 2006	977	10,103	10.34
September 2006	955	9,884	10.35
October 2006	1,018	9,707	9.53
November 2006	1,064	10,067	9.46
December 2006	998	9,686	9.70
January 2007	1,023	10,135	9.91
February 2007	916	9,088	9.93
March 2007	1,022	10,200	9.98
Total for year 2006-07	11,780	117,674	9.99
April 2007	961	9,777	10.18
May 2007	1,033	10,498	10.16
June 2007	1,006	10,280	10.22
July 2007	1,027	10,184	9.92
August 2007	1,046	10,395	9.94
September 2007	963	9,615	9.98
October 2007	1,145	10,350	9.04
November 2007	1,091	9,966	9.13
December 2007	1,025	9,540	9.31
January 2008	1,060	9,857	9.30
February 2008	996	9,369	9.41
March 2008	989	9,238	9.34
Total for year 2007-08	12,341	119,069	9.65
April 2008	1,074	10,045	9.35
May 2008	1,065	9,942	9.34

Information showing the net ingredient cost of medicines dispensed via an FP10 prescription in primary care within the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust for the period September 2004 to August 2009

	Number of items (Thousand)	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*	*Average net ingredient cost per item (£)*
June 2008	1,035	9,671	9.35
July 2008	1,114	10,414	9.35
August 2008	1,030	9,699	9.42
September 2008	1,066	10,034	9.42
October 2008	1,231	11,269	9.16
November 2008	1,057	9,768	9.24
December 2008	1,175	10,990	9.35
January 2009	1,082	10,136	9.37
February 2009	1,005	9,517	9.47
March 2009	1,109	10,124	9.13
Total for year 2008-09	13,041	121,608	9.32
April 2009	1,113	10,150	9.12
May 2009	1,087	10,044	9.24
June 2009	1,142	10,520	9.21
July 2009	1,184	11,088	9.37
August 2009	1,064	9,930	9.33
April 2009 to August 2009	5,590	51,732	9.25
Total September 2004 to August 2009	60,649	594,866	9.81

Notes:

1. Data have been supplied by financial year 2005-06 to 2008-09. Only the last 60 months data are available; therefore data prior to September 2004 are not available. September to December data are available for 2004. March to August data are available for 2009-10.

2. NHS Prescription Services (RxS) is responsible for the reimbursement and remuneration of dispensing contractors in England on behalf of the Department of Health. NHS RxS captures prescription items submitted by dispensing contractors for reimbursement and remuneration purposes.

3. North Yorkshire and York has been defined as the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT).

4. On 1 October 2006 four PCTs, Hambelton and Richmondshire PCT, Craven Harrogate and Rural District PCT, Scarborough, Whitby and Rydale PCT and Selby and York PCT merged to form North Yorkshire and York PCT. The data provided prior to October 2006 have been collated from these PCTs and have been structured in line with current PCT arrangements.

5. The data are based on England community dispensing (not prescribing) data only. These may include items prescribed in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man which have been dispensed in England. The data exclude items prescribed in England but dispensed in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Isle of Man.

6. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in prisons, hospitals, including mental health trusts, walk-in centres or private prescriptions but do include prison and hospital prescriptions which are dispensed in the community.

7. Prescriptions are written/printed on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

8 The net ingredient cost is the basic price of a drug prior to discount being deducted (where applicable) as stated in Part II Clause 8 of the Drug Tariff for England and Wales (www.ppa.org.uk/ppa/edt_intro.htm). It excludes dispensing fees, container allowances and other fees paid to contractors.

9. The average net ingredient cost per item for North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust has fallen significantly between September 2004 and August 2009. This follows the downward trend in the national average net ingredient cost over the same period. *Prescription exemption data.*

10. When determining payment to contractors, it is only necessary for NHS RxS to determine whether:

a prescription charge has been collected; or

a patient has completed a declaration of exemption, when a declaration is required.

Up until November 2007, NHS RxS determined and recorded the exemption category on every 20th form that is exempt from the prescription charge. The data were recorded from the tick-box shown on the reverse of FP10 prescription forms, and where appropriate from the age or date of birth printed on the front of the form. This relied on the form to be clear and completed correctly which may not have always been the case.

11. The information from the sample of prescription forms informed the Department of Health of the frequency of claims for exemption from prescription charges in each exemption category.

12. Due to the method applied when sampling exemption data, this information can only be viewed as an estimate of the number of products issued for patients within an exemption category and is not statistically valid when applied to individual PCT's.

13. From December 2007 NHS RxS changed the processes for pricing prescriptions and for capturing prescription charge exemption status. Therefore NHS RxS cannot reliably estimate the data for each exemption category relating to the age of the patient from this date.

14. The processes for capturing information during the reimbursement and remuneration processes undertaken formerly by the Prescription Pricing Authority, and latterly by NHS RxS, were designed to allow an analysis of trends in prescribing and dispensing patterns. However, tighter statistical governance requirements and greater scrutiny of the level of accuracy and precision of data within the NHS suggest that it would be inappropriate to provide exemption category data in detail.

Source:

National Health Service RxS Information System.

Psychiatry: Regulation

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has received representations on the rejection by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy of the proposed statutory regulation of psychotherapy and counselling by the Health Professions Council. [295437]

Ann Keen: The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) has not made any direct representations but has copied officials into their response to the Health Professions Council's (HPC) consultation on its proposals for statutory regulation. We understand that BACP raised concerns about whether HPC are the most appropriate body to regulate psychotherapists and counsellors. The consultation closed on 16 October and HPC are expected to provide a report on the consultation and draw up final proposals by the end of this year.

Rare Conditions: Medical Treatments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the impact of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's end-of-life criteria on patient access to treatments for rare conditions aimed at extending life; and if he will make a statement. [295041]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have made no such assessment. The application of the explicit end-of-life flexibilities to individual appraisals is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as an independent body.

The application of this flexibility, along with patient access schemes, have resulted in positive NICE guidance on a number of treatments including Sutent for renal cell carcinoma and Revlimid for multiple myeloma.

Swine Flu

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue a public health warning on the risk of transmission of swine flu arising from kissing, including a two-cheek greeting; and if he will make a statement. [293219]

Gillian Merron: The Department will not be issuing a public health warning.

We have consistently advised that symptomatic people should stay at home while ill to avoid infecting others.

People can reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of spreading influenza by routinely adopting high standards of personal and respiratory hygiene.

Those who are not symptomatic should continue their normal activities.

To keep the public informed, in May this year, we ran a mass public health campaign with print, television and radio adverts. The adverts warned the public about swine flu and reminded people to practice good respiratory hand hygiene, that is, to cover their noses and mouths with tissues when they cough and sneeze and then throw the tissue away and wash their hands.

There will also be a further respiratory hand hygiene campaign beginning at the end of October and running through to February 2010.

Thalidomide Trust

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department last met trustees of the Thalidomide Trust. [295461]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I met with the National Advisory Council to the Thalidomide Trust on 22 October 2009.

Treatment Centres and Hospitals

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of *(a)* independent sector treatment centres and *(b)* NHS hospitals in undertaking emergency medical procedures. [294766]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) provide elective care, not emergency care.

ISTCs have procedures in place to respond to complications, including arrangements with a local national health service trust in case of an unforeseen emergency.

As part of performance monitoring of ISTCs there is a key performance indicator included in the contracts, which sets out the performance criteria on the transfer activity of patients. This activity is reviewed by the primary care trust (PCT) Commissioner at a Joint Service Review between the provider, commissioner and key stakeholders, undertaken quarterly to assess the performance of ISTCs.

PCTs commission and contract with NHS hospital trusts to provide emergency care services according to local needs. They are responsible for monitoring the performance of those trusts. The Department has set a national standard that patients should not wait more than four hours in accident and emergency departments from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. National annual performance against the standard was 98.1 per cent. in 2008-09 and national performance in quarter 1 of 2009-10 was 98.6 per cent. 98 per cent. achievement against the standard is regarded as a success. The 2 per cent. margin allows some patients to remain longer in accident and emergency where there is a clinical need to do so.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Aerospace Industry

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships there are in *(a)* the aerospace industry and *(b)* those parts of the (i) Eurofighter and (ii) Airbus consortia operating in England. [290268]

Kevin Brennan: Information is not available to identify the total number of apprentices in the categories asked for. Data can only reliably be presented down to levels such as apprenticeship "frameworks" to which the aerospace industry would be a relatively small component in categories such as engineering and IT.

Information about companies providing apprenticeships is not currently available centrally. From 1 August 2009 we have begun to collect standardised data on the employer with whom the apprentice is placed. This is a new requirement of providers, primarily to assess trends in employer engagement by sector rather than to identify activity at the individual employer level where corporate structures, especially for large organisations, can make such analysis extremely difficult. We expect to review the quality and relevance of the data when sufficient volume of data are available and subject to confidentiality rules consider whether it can be published on a regular basis.

Broadband

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of people living in *(a)* the City of Sunderland and *(b)* England who have access to broadband internet at home. [293943]

Mr. Timms: This Department has not made a recent estimate of the number of homes with broadband access in Sunderland and does not have available information on broadband at home at nation level. Over 99 per cent. of all telephone exchanges in the UK are now broadband enabled, including those in the Sunderland area. Reception of reliable broadband may depend on factors such as distance from the exchange and other factors such as interference from home wiring.

Broadband: Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase access to broadband coverage in *(a)* Mid Sussex constituency and *(b)* West Sussex. [295686]

Mr. Timms: We have recently set up the Network Design and Procurement Company as we pledged to do in the "Digital Britain" report. The company will be responsible for procuring the upgrade and replacement works to deliver the Universal Service Commitment (USC) for 2Mbps to virtually every community by 2012 and, in due course, the administration of the Next Generation Fund outlined in the "Digital Britain" White Paper.

On take-up of broadband and digital inclusion the Government have also appointed Martha Lane Fox as our digital inclusion champion. Her role will be to find ways of helping people without previous experience of computers to develop the skills needed to make use of the internet in order to take advantage of the benefits it offers.

Business: Government Assistance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications have been *(a)* received and *(b)* granted for funding from the £100 million Government support scheme made available for small and medium-sized enterprises in Budget 2009 to improve their energy efficiency. [295081]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

After applying the Barnett formula, £83.9 million of the £100 million funding announced at Budget 2009 was allocated to the Carbon Trust by Department of Energy and Climate Change for loans to SMEs in England in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The Carbon Trust informs me that they have received 746 applications for this funding, of which 623 have been approved. This amounts to £18.1 million in loan commitments in England since April, more than double the volume of loans offered at this point in the last financial year.

Business: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Leeds North West have gone into administration in each year since 1997. [294254]

Ian Lucas: Statistics covering administrations are not currently available at sub-national level within England and Wales.

Correspondence

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason the letter sent from Lord Davies of Abersoch to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak dated 12 October 2009, ref JB/148761, was printed on only one side of paper; if he will make it his Department's policy to use two-sided printing for its correspondence; and whether he has made an estimate of the potential effects on his Department's level of paper use consequent on the implementation of such a policy. [294771]

Mr. McFadden: The vast majority of printers in use on the BIS estate are provided by our IT supplier as part of overall desktop services and the main infrastructure contract covering this provision has been in place for 10 years. Many of the printers supplied to the Department will be 'user configurable', as is the choice of which particular printer to use.

The Department is very conscious of the fact that the 'cost of print' offers many opportunities for efficiencies, both in the level of paper used and the corresponding cost of toners used. Aside from cost, there are also carbon footprint issues that can be addressed and the Department is fully committed to seeking efficiencies in both. As such, we already have a commitment to make more efficient use of printers. Staff are encouraged to use the double-sided printing option wherever possible and not to use colour printers as their default printer when colour is not required. Similarly, we encourage all staff to make better use of the Department's internal reprographics services where this is appropriate to ensure that both printing and copying are undertaken in the most efficient way.

Going forward, the Department will be looking at options to audit our overall cost of print, ways in which printers are deployed across the estate, and the types that are used, so that we are better able to mandate particular usage.

Departmental Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the cost of maintaining and updating its Twitter account; and how many staff are responsible for updating the account. [292050]

Mr. McFadden: The estimated costs of staff time in maintaining and updating the @bisgovuk Twitter account are £3,175 a year. The task is the shared responsibility of the Department's Digital Communications team as part of their overall range of duties and the total effort is estimated as half an hour per day. No staff are assigned to Twitter work specifically.

Digital Technology: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made towards establishment of an independently produced guiding technical arbitration on the cost of 900 spectrum refarming paid for by an industry fund. [293758]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 16 October 2009]*: This work is now complete. The Independent Spectrum Broker has submitted his final report and this will be published as part of a consultation on a direction to the independent regulator, Ofcom, shortly.

Employment: EC Law

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* the Minister for Employment Relations have had with the Prime Minister on the date for implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive. [294851]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State and I discuss a range of employment issues with the Prime Minister from time to time. The Prime Minister has made clear his commitment to legislate on the implementation of the Agency Workers Directive in the current Parliament.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish a response to his Department's consultation paper of May 2009 on the implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive. [294853]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's response, which included a consultation on draft regulations, was published on 15 October; copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Energy: Electronic Equipment

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* discourage manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment from making devices which can only function if left switched on permanently and *(b)* require such manufacturers to provide information to prospective purchasers on the energy consumption of their products. [295059]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

The G8 summit in Gleneagles in June 2005 undertook to promote the International Energy Agency's "One Watt" initiative as part of a package of measures designed to reduce carbon emissions in the home. The UK remains fully committed to this and played a major role in bringing into force the EU Ecodesign requirements for standby and off power mode for electrical and electronic household and office equipment. This Regulation comes into force on 7 January 2010.

The Government work through the EU to agree energy labels for individual products under the Energy Labelling Framework Directive. The Directive is currently being amended to increase the scope in line with the recently revised Ecodesign Directive to include energy related products, and non-domestic as well as domestic products. The Energy Labelling Directive requires manufacturers to provide labels, and for retailers to display them to enable consumers to make informed choices about the relative energy efficiency of products covered by implementing measures. Further, in the UK the Energy Saving Trust endorses the best products in class through its Energy Saving Recommended logo.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the number of jobs which will be *(a)* maintained and *(b)* created as a consequence of Tranche 3 Typhoon project. [293220]

Ian Lucas: The Department's analysis is that a minimum of 8,600 jobs should be directly sustained in the UK by the commitment to Tranche 3 of the Eurofighter Typhoon procurement.

Export Credit Guarantees: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in Leeds West constituency have taken up support from the Export Credits Guarantee Scheme in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [294019]

Ian Lucas: There have been no companies who have taken up support directly from ECGD since 2001 from the Leeds West Constituency. ECGD may have supported some companies that were subcontractors but this information is unknown to us.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to note 37 to the Export Credits Guarantee Department resource accounts for 2008-09, the annual accounts for First Securitisation Company Limited, published in June 2009, and the most recent annual returns of Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc and First Securitisation Company Limited, what the ownership structure is of Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc. [292972]

Ian Lucas: The Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc is owned by two charitable trust companies, First Securitisation Company Limited ("FSCL") and Capita IRG Trustees Limited. The Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc has issued 50,000 £1 shares and, of these, FSCL holds 49,999 and Capita IRG Trustees Limited holds one.

Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the accounts of Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc do not meet the individual criteria for consolidation in the Government Financial Reporting Manual, as referred to in note 37 of the resource accounts of the Export Credits Guarantee Department for 2008-09. [292970]

Ian Lucas: With regard to ECGD's 2008-09 Resource Accounts, Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc fell outside the departmental accounting boundary as defined in section 2.4 of the Financial Reporting Manual ("FReM") with which ECGD is required to comply in its preparing Resource Accounts. On this basis, ECGD was not required to consolidate Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc into its Resource Accounts.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the implications are for the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) of the ownership of Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc by two charitable trust companies, as referred to in note 37 to the resource accounts of the ECGD for 2008-09. [292971]

Ian Lucas: The ownership of the Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation plc by two charitable trusts has no implications for ECGD's 2008-09 Resource Accounts. The nature of the transactions between ECGD and Guaranteed Export Finance Corporation are as described in note 37 to ECGD's Resource Accounts for 2008-09.

Higher Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on increasing the retention rate in higher education in each of the last five years. [294328]

Mr. Lammy: In addition to its core teaching funding, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides institutions with additional funding to help support student retention. The total amounts for the last five academic years are as follows:

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Full Time Students	159,353,247	166,640,907	184,128,520	188,582,804	192,875,340
Part Time Students	53,883,613	54,283,169	55,763,058	57,351,573	60,292,489

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

We maintain very good completion rates for first degrees—OECD statistics show that the UK ranks third of 27 countries. This has been achieved and maintained during aperiod when higher education has been opened up to both increased numbers and a greater diversity of students.

Higher Education: Age Participation Rates

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the rate of participation by 18 year olds resident in each region of England in higher education has been in each year since 2003-04. [293185]

Mr. Lammy: This information is currently only available for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Nationally, the latest figures show that some 31 per cent. of young people who were in maintained schools at age 15 in 2002/03 had progressed to HE by age 19 by 2006/07. This latest percentage is derived from the matched Higher Education Statistics—National Pupil Database—Individual Learning Record dataset and reflects those persons who progress to HE in 2005/06 at age 18 or in 2006/07 at age 19.

The figures for each Government office region (GOR) are shown in the table. Children aged 15 were allocated to each GOR based on the location of the school they attended.

Percentage of 15-year-old students in maintained schools in England who progressed to higher education by age 19—split by Government office region

	2005-06[1]	*2006-07*[2]
London	35	36
West Midlands	29	30
North West	29	30
Yorkshire and the Humber	27	27
North East	27	27
South West	29	29
East of England	30	30
South East	32	32
East Midlands	30	30
England	30	31

[1] Percentage of children aged 15 attending maintained schools in 2001-02 who progressed to higher education by 2005-06 by age 19
[2] Percentage of children aged 15 attending maintained schools in 2002-03 who progressed to higher education by 2006-07 by age 19
Source:
Matched Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), National Pupil Database (NPD) and Individual Learner Record (ILR)

Table 1: Full-Time Undergraduate entrants from West Suffolk Parliamentary Constituency[1] UK Higher Education Institutions[2]: Academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
Socio economic classification	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	55	5	50	5	50	0	55	5	55	0
Lower managerial and professional occupations	55	5	80	5	70	5	85	0	100	15
Intermediate occupations	30	5	25	5	35	5	30	5	45	10
Small employers and own account workers	10	0	20	0	30	0	20	0	20	0
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	10	0	15	0	15	0	20	0	20	0
Semi-routine occupations	20	5	30	5	30	10	30	5	35	5
Routine occupations	5	0	15	5	15	0	15	0	20	10

Table 1: Full-Time Undergraduate entrants from West Suffolk Parliamentary Constituency[1] UK Higher Education Institutions[2]: Academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Socio economic classification	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*
Missing[3]	60	40	50	55	65	55	70	35	85	30

[1] The table does not include entrants whose constituency cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of e[illegible]nts across the time series.

[3] Includes those classified as "Never worked and long-term unemployed", "Not classified" and "Missing".

Notes:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Russell Group

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in state education at the age of 17 years who subsequently studied at Russell Group universities in the latest period for which information is available. [295585]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not currently available in the form requested. There may be possibilities for deriving a valid progression statistic for 17-year-olds from the matched Higher Education Statistics, National Pupil dataset and Individual Learning Record but such analysis has not been carried out to date. Developing a sufficiently robust approach and quality assuring the results could be completed only at disproportionate cost. Therefore, the following figures have been provided as an alternative.

Figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show in the 2007-08 academic year, 35,390 18-year-old full-time undergraduate entrants whose previous institution was either a state school or FE college attended Russell Group HE institutions in the UK. This equates to 25 per cent. of all 18-year-old full-time undergraduate entrants to HE from state schools or FE colleges. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of pupils from each socio-economic group in state secondary education who subsequently studied at Russell Group universities in the latest period for which information is available. [295586]

Mr. Lammy: It is estimated that 6 per cent. of young people who were in English maintained schools and aged 15 at the start of academic year 2002-03, progressed to HE at a Russell Group institution by the age of 19 (in 2006-07).

The following table shows the composition of this group by each socio-economic group. Figures for 2007-08 will be available in 2010.

Pupils aged 15 at the start of the 2002-03 academic year, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE at a Russell Group institution by the age of 19 in 2006-07: Socio-economic breakdown

Socio-economic classification	*Proportion (percentage)*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	25
Lower managerial and professional occupations	28
Intermediate occupations	11
Small employers and own account workers	5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	3
Semi-routine occupations	7
Routine occupations	3
Missing[1]	18

Pupils aged 15 at the start of the 2002-03 academic year, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE at a Russell Group institution by the age of 19 in 2006-07: Socio-economic breakdown

[1] Includes those classified as missing, not classified and never worked and long term unemployed.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

Insolvency Service: Publicity

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the reasons were for the higher expenditure by the Insolvency Service on promotional items in 2007-08 than in the previous two years. [294077]

Ian Lucas: During the year 2007-08, £23,489.94 was spent. Of this, £11,892.22 was assigned to the service's Enabling the Future (EtF) programme and £11,680 was assigned to the rest of the service.

EtF is a major change programme which is enabling Insolvency Service staff to provide the best possible service to customers. It represents a major programme of investment in the service's systems and the way it works, aimed at: providing modern tools and processes to support the highest quality of customer service; reducing costs and so improving the value for money the service offers; and making the service a better and more rewarding place for staff to work in. The money was spent on internal publicity material designed to ensure that the changes in working practices were embedded within the organisation.

The £11,680 was assigned to the rest of the service.

Insolvency: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in Leeds West constituency have become insolvent in each year since 2005. [294025]

Ian Lucas: Statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at sub-national level within England and Wales.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on its plans for the Joint Strike Fighter and its jet propulsion system. [293177]

Ian Lucas: BIS Ministers have had no such recent discussions with the US Administration. However, officials in the British embassy in Washington, MOD officials and MOD Ministers routinely discuss all aspects of the Joint Strike Fighter programme with their US counterparts.

KBR: Export Credit Guarantees

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for cover from *(a)* Kellogg, Brown and Root and its subsidiaries and *(b)* MW Kellogg Limited and its subsidiaries the Export Credits Guarantee Department has considered since 2000. [293555]

Ian Lucas: Since 2000, ECGD has considered applications in respect of the following business:

(a) Kellogg, Brown and Root:

2004—works in connection with an oilfield development in Kazakhstan.

(b) M W Kellogg Limited:

2002—works in connection with the construction of two gas liquefaction units in Nigeria.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many placements under Knowledge Transfer Partnerships there have been in the last three years. [294935]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* The number of live Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) as at 31 March for the last three years was 1,048 (31 March 2007), 976 (31 March 2008) and 977 (31 March 2009).

The number of new KTPs approved in these years was 352 (2006-07), 322 (2007-08) and 408 (2008-09).

Mabey and Johnson: Export Credit Guarantees

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support has been provided to Mabey and Johnson Ltd by the Export Credits Guarantee Department; and what the *(a)* project or product involved, *(b)* date of approval, *(c)* amount of exposure at the date of approval and *(d)* destination country for the export was in each case. [293554]

Ian Lucas: ECGD has provided support in respect of the contracts listed as follows involving Mabey and Johnson since 1985. The exports were for steel bridges and flyovers.

	Country	*ECGD's original maximum liability (million)*
1985	Iraq	£4.59
1987	Indonesia	US$24.02
1991	Indonesia	£6.00
1992	Ghana	£16.46
1996	Philippines	£23.56
1997	Panama	US$36.3
1999	Philippines	[1]JPY 11,133.8
2000	Bangladesh	[1]JPY 2,707.6
2000	Jamaica	£17.28
2000	Philippines	[1]JPY 19,026.1
2001	Dominican Republic	US$35.66
2001	Philippines	[1]JPY 26,767.1
2002	Venezuela	US$2.57
2002	Papua New Guinea	[1]JPY 6,743.1
2003	Sri Lanka	[1]JPY 4,161.8
2003	Jamaica	£19.79
2005	Philippines	[1]JPY 19,009.6
2006	Philippines	[1]JPY 11,757.3
2008	Sri Lanka	[1]JPY 15,770.4

[1] Japanese Yen

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the implications for manufacturing industry in the UK of levels of foreign ownership of that industry; and what discussions he has had with trade union representatives on the subject. [293885]

Ian Lucas: The UK economy benefits very substantially from its openness to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Research was carried out for UKTI by Professor Richard Harris of the University of Glasgow in 2008/09 looking at the effects of FDI on both services and manufacturing, focusing specifically on the effects of mergers and acquisitions, but also looking at other types of FDI. The full final report is now available from the UKTI Economics and Evaluation team, and is due to be published on the UKTI website in November, under the title "The Effect of Foreign Mergers and Acquisitions on UK Productivity and Employment".

We have regular discussions with a range of stakeholders, including trade unions, about manufacturing, including on topics such as foreign investment.

Manufacturing Insight

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* universities have been visited by representatives of the Manufacturing Insight office since its inception. [295123]

Ian Lucas: Nick Hussey was appointed director of Manufacturing Insight on 1 September 2009 and has not yet visited schools or universities. He is expected to make contact with key players in education establishments once the Manufacturing Insight business plan has been agreed. The business plan is currently being agreed with the board and is expected to be finalised in autumn 2009.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has made available to Manufacturing Insight for the promotion of manufacturing in the UK in the last three years. [295124]

Ian Lucas: Manufacturing Insight was established in 2009 and will be formally launched to business in October 2009. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has allocated £50,000 per annum for two years towards start-up costs, as part of a package of core funding, which is to come from the wider business community.

Manufacturing Insight: Manpower

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time employees there are in the Manufacturing Insight office. [295121]

Ian Lucas: At this time Nick Hussey is the sole employee of Manufacturing Insight. He was appointed as Director on 1 September 2009.

Mobile Phones: Unfair Practices

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with mobile telephone operators on the compatibility of their policy of mobile termination rates with fair trading practices; and if he will make a statement. [293672]

Mr. Timms: I meet regularly with all the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to discuss a range of issues, including Mobile Termination Rates (MTRs).

With the independent industry regulator Ofcom, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is committed to reducing mobile termination rates and making the cost of calling more affordable for all consumers. MTRs are set to fall by about a quarter between 2007 and 2011. Earlier this year Ofcom undertook a further public consultation on how mobile termination rates should be set after the current pricing system ends in 2011.

A range of options, from removing them altogether to maintaining the current system and radical options in between, are being considered to ensure the best outcome is secured for consumers and a changing mobile market.

Motor Vehicles: Innovation

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to support research and development in the automotive industry in the last five years. [293950]

Ian Lucas: BIS and its predecessors have worked with other Government Departments, the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and other organisations to support research and development (R&D) by the UK automotive sector in a range of ways over the last five years. In particular, the Technology Strategy Board's Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform, launched in May 2007, is the key delivery agent for the Government's R&D funding on low carbon vehicles. The Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme is a key tool that the Innovation Platform will use to achieve its goal over the coming five years. The programme involves about £250 million of joint Government and industry investment and co-ordinates the UK's low carbon vehicle activity from initial strategic academic research through to industry-led collaborative R&D. £25 million has been allocated to highly innovative, industry-led collaborative research projects in the field of ultra low carbon vehicle development and demonstration.

Government have also supported automotive R&D through the Centres of Excellence on Low Carbon and Fuel Cells (CENEX) and Intelligent Transport Systems and Sustainable Mobility (InnovITS) which have received total funding from this Department of over £13 million. The Foresight Vehicle programme ran from 1997 to 2007 and supported R&D through the associated LINK programme.

Government provided over £45 million funding which supported 100 collaborative R&D projects with a value in excess of £100 million. In addition, the £2.3 billion Automotive Assistance Programme has been designed, among other things, to help support the development of cutting-edge technology in the longer term.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the maximum number of car purchases which may be supported by the car scrappage scheme; and how much of the funding allocated to the scheme has been disbursed. [291886]

Ian Lucas: Following the extension announced on 28 September 2009, the vehicle scrappage scheme will now, subject to parliamentary approval, cover up to 400,000 transactions. 253,364 orders have been placed (covering the period from 23 April to 11 October) and £135,188,000 has been paid out under the scheme as at 21 October. BIS payments are made once orders are fulfilled and transactions are completed.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which applications for funding from the Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform had been successful on the latest date for which information is available. [293033]

Mr. McFadden: To date, the successful applications for funding under the Technology Strategy Board's Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform are:

September 2007

Lead Company	*Project Title*
Competition	
Jaguar Cars Ltd	Limo-Green
FiFe Batteries Ltd	Li-Ion batteries for plug-in HEVs
Magnomatics Ltd	HiTED
Axon Automotive	Axon 60
Jaguar Cars Ltd	Flywheel hybrid system for premium vehicles
TWI Ltd	(LAB-LCV)
Leyland Trucks Ltd	Second generation 7.5t-12t diesel/electric hybrid truck
Land Rover	Range Extended Vehicle (REHEV)
Tanfield Group plc	DESERVE - Develop high energy battery and high power supercaps for all electric range van evaluation
BAE Systems	Hybrid electric technology for transit buses
Ford Motor Co Ltd	Engine optimisation for reduced parasitic losses
Hatcher Components Ltd	Commercial vehicle fuel and carbon reduction by the use of 'aerospace aero' devices
Intelligent Energy	Zero emission London taxi commercialisation
Ricardo UK Ltd	2/4 CAR 2/4 - stroke switching carbon reduction vehicle
JLR	Lower cost, light weight vehicles by increasing the use of post consumer aluminium scrap
Ultra-efficient vehicle systems competition	
Smith Electric Vehicles	Integrated 'E' van system
Ricardo UK Ltd.	Hyboost—Hybridised boosted optimised system with turbocompound
Axeon Technologies Ltd.	Next generation battery management system
Integral Powertrain Ltd.	Ultra-cost efficient hybrid powertrain (UCEHP)
Nissan Motor Manufacturing	Ultra-efficient electric machines and drives for EVs and HEVs
Ultra-low carbon vehicles demonstrator competition	
Arup	Coventry and Birmingham Low Emission Demonstrators (CABLED)
AEA	EEMS Accelerate
Nissan/Smith Electric Vehicles	Electric Vehicle Accelerated Development in the North East (EVADINE)
Ford Motor Company	Ford Focus Battery Electric Vehicle
EDF Energy/Elektromotive/ Greater London Authority/ Westminster City Council	London South East Bid
BMW Group	MINI E Research Project
Peugeot	Peugeot Electric Cars
Toyota/EDF Energy	PHV—Paving the way to full commercialisation of plug-in hybrid vehicles

The above 28 projects are being grant funded to a total of £59.1 million.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industry

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars have been purchased under the car scrappage scheme in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wales. [294703]

Ian Lucas: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 169,159 completed scrappage transactions across the UK including 7,934 in Wales.

MW Kellogg: Export Credit Guarantees

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the support provided by the Export Credits Guarantee Department in connection with the liquefied natural gas Plant at Bonny Island in Nigeria included commissions to agents. [293802]

Ian Lucas: No.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps were taken by the Export Credits Guarantee Department to ascertain whether MW Kellogg Ltd. or other subsidiaries of Halliburton were implicated in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* foreign jurisdictions in allegations of bribery in connection with the liquefied natural gas Plant at Bonny Island in Nigeria. [293803]

Ian Lucas: Prior to committing its support for the supplies of goods and services by MW Kellogg Ltd. to the LNG plant at Bonny Island in Nigeria, ECGD obtained from the company a warranty that to the best of its knowledge no-one, including anyone acting on its behalf, had engaged in any corrupt activity in connection with the goods and services for which ECGD provide its support. Following the provision of its support, ECGD became aware of allegations of bribery and corruption in connection with the LNG plant at Bonny Island. Since ECGD is not an investigatory body and has no investigatory powers, it does not carry out investigations into such allegations but reports them to the Serious Fraud Office.

News International

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any Minister or official in his Department and its predecessors has had *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts with News International in the last five years. [295331]

Mr. McFadden: The BIS relationship manager has met with their opposite number in News International on a reactive basis over the past five years, when industrial concerns of a general nature were raised. In addition, Lord Carter held a private meeting with James Murdoch on 26 February this year as part of his evidence gathering for the interim Digital Britain Report.

Northern Rock: Corporate Hospitality

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Shareholder Executive has spent on entertaining staff of Northern Rock since January 2008. [295408]

Mr. McFadden: Gary Hoffman (chief executive) and Anne Godbehere (chief finance officer) of Northern Rock attended the Shareholder Executive annual reception on the 9 October 2008.

The cost of the reception, quoted by Government Hospitality, was £35 per head.

Public Appointments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what duties the new Chief Construction Officer will have. [292969]

Ian Lucas: The duties of the chief construction adviser will be to:

> Chair a new construction category board, which will build on the work of the existing Public Sector Construction Clients Forum, to oversee the implementation and further the development of best value in Government construction procurement;
>
> Chair an enhanced sustainable construction strategy delivery board to help ensure policy regarding the industry is effectively co-ordinated;
>
> Assess the key barriers to growth in the UK's low carbon construction sector to ensure the UK is well placed to serve developing needs and markets;
>
> Work with the industry, through the Strategic Forum for Construction, to deliver the industry improvement agenda, including the Construction Commitments;
>
> Promote innovation in the sector, working closely with the Technology Strategy Board and other funding bodies;
>
> Co-ordinate the Whitehall response to reports featuring construction.

The chief construction adviser will also lead the Low Carbon Review of the Construction Industry announced by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on 17 September.

Regulatory Policy Committee

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Regulatory Policy Committee has met since April 2009; and what advice it has provided to Ministers on better regulation. [294076]

Ian Lucas: Michael Gibbons was appointed as the chair of the Regulatory Policy Committee on 15 October. The other members will be appointed shortly and together they will then agree the strategy and work programme for the Committee.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much it cost to establish the Regulatory Policy Committee; and what estimate he has made of its running costs for 2009-10. [294080]

Ian Lucas: The Regulatory Policy Committee is being funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills from within existing departmental budgets. The chair and members will be unpaid and the secretariat will be provided by existing BIS civil servants occupying accommodation on the BIS estate.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Corporate Hospitality

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Shareholder Executive has spent on entertaining staff of the Royal Bank of Scotland since January 2008. [295403]

Mr. McFadden: Since January 2008, there has been no expenditure incurred by the Shareholder Executive entertaining staff of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of items of mail which have been delayed by industrial action by Royal Mail employees in the last three months. [294580]

Mr. McFadden: Operational matters are the direct responsibility of the company. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what compensation is available to small businesses adversely affected by industrial action by Royal Mail employees; and if he will make a statement. [294581]

Mr. McFadden: It is clear that national postal strikes will have an impact on small businesses that heavily depend upon Royal Mail services. Compensation for delayed mail is a matter for Royal Mail who have put in place a compensation framework agreed with Postcomm, the industry regulator. Compensation for delays caused by industrial action relating to Royal Mail's bulk mail products is subject to a decision by the regulator.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the effects of a national strike by Royal Mail employees on *(a)* online retailers, *(b)* small businesses and *(c)* the UK economy. [294675]

Mr. McFadden: It is clear that national postal strikes will have an impact on those businesses and associated services that heavily rely on Royal Mail services.

We are in regular contact with both the management and the union about the dispute. Our message to them is that, in the interests of Royal Mail, the Communication Workers Union members and the country, they should sit down and resolve this dispute through talks.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many items of mail he estimates would be delayed by *(a)* a national postal strike, *(b)* a series of rolling strikes and *(c)* unofficial industrial action; and if he will make a statement. [294677]

Mr. McFadden: Any delay in the mail caused by industrial action depends on the type of action called and the effectiveness of Royal Mail's business continuity and recovery plans. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what compensation will be paid by the Royal Mail to businesses which can demonstrate financial losses from postal strikes. [295689]

Mr. McFadden: Compensation for delayed mail is a matter for Royal Mail who have put in place a compensation framework agreed with Postcomm, the industry regulator. Details concerning Royal Mail's compensation procedures can be found on Royal Mail's website

www.royalmail.com

Compensation for delays caused by industrial action relating to Royal Mail's bulk mail products is subject to a decision by the regulator.

Students: Employment

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of university students who were undertaking part-time employment at the same time as their studies in the latest period for which figures are available. [295754]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2007-08, published on the 21 April, is a comprehensive study of student income, expenditure, borrowing and debt. It showed that 53 per cent. of all English domiciled full-time undergraduate students undertook paid work at some time during the academic year—either during term-time, during the short vacations or both. For those undertaking such work, earnings over the academic year were on average £4,005 (after tax).

Students: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Uxbridge (Mr. Randall) of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1009W, on student finance, when he expects to announce the independent review of tuition fees. [295201]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Education and Skills, told the House in January 2004 that there would be an independent review of tuition fees once we had evidence on the first three years of the variable fee regime.

My noble Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has announced that the Independent Review of Variable Tuition Fees will be launched this autumn.

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that students resident in England applying to study at Trinity College, Dublin are correctly advised by Student Finance England on financial support which is available to them. [295249]

Mr. Lammy: Trinity College Dublin is classed as an overseas institution for students resident in England, therefore the courses are not designated for support under the Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations 2008 and the students would not receive financial support from the English Government. Student Finance England would not be expected to provide advice on the support available to students intending to study at Trinity College but rather would refer them to the higher education authority in Dublin who would be able to advise on possible sources of financial assistance.

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the merits of reducing the cost to students of taking a second degree. [295315]

Mr. Lammy: In general, we believe it is right to give priority in spending public funds on students studying a degree for the first time. This has for some time been our policy on financial support for students, and it has increasingly been our policy in respect of the teaching grant paid to universities since 2008. We believe it to be the right policy on grounds of equity because it allows more people access to higher education; and because it is the most effective way to grow the number of people with high level skills. There are exceptions to this general presumption: for example, students going to study at a higher level, and students studying programmes which most clearly meet economic needs such as foundation degree programmes.

Telecommunications

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many households have discontinued their fixed line telephone connection in each of the last 12 months. [294752]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Telephone Services: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in (i) Fife and (ii) North-East Fife constituency which will be (A) liable for and (B) exempt from payment of the levy on telephone lines proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper. [295239]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has made no specific estimate of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in (i) Fife and (ii) North-East Fife constituency which will be (A) liable for and (B) exempt from payment of the levy on telephone lines proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper.

Ofcom estimates that there are 172,121 fixed lines in the Fife area. We do not have estimates on the number of people on benefits in this constituency but recognise that those on the lowest incomes might have difficulty paying the fixed line levy and that is why we have confirmed that those on social telephony schemes will be exempt. The social telephony schemes are available to those on income support, income-based job seeker's allowance, employment support allowance (income rated) or guaranteed pensions credit and should be an accurate indication of ability to pay.

Training: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided to employers for employer-based training as classified by the sector skills council in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [295584]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's main support for work-based adult skills training is provided through the Train to Gain and Apprenticeships programmes. In 2006-07 the expenditure on both these programmes was £457 million; in 2007-08 it rose to £585 million.

UK Innovation Investment Fund: Finance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Government will provide for the new UK Innovation Investment Fund in the next three years; and how much private sector investment he expects the Fund to receive in that period. [294707]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committing £150 million of taxpayer investment to build a fund of up to £1 billion over its 10-year life. The Government expect that their investment of £150 million will leverage significant investment from the private sector.

USA: Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value of trade was between the UK and the United States in each of the last five years. [293316]

Ian Lucas: The data requested are shown in the following table

£ million

	UK exports of goods to USA	*UK exports of services to USA*	*UK imports of goods from USA*	*UK imports of services from USA*	*Total UK-USA trade*
2004	28,794	25,790	22,525	15,357	92,466
2005	31,095	24,423	22,530	16,329	94,377
2006	32,287	29,226	25,830	16,792	104,135
2007	32,274	32,964	26,095	18,387	109,720
2008	35,351	36,173	25,848	19,703	117,075

Source:
UK Balance of Payments Pink Book, 2009 edition

Video Games

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value of *(a)* video game exports and *(b)* video game imports was in each year from 2001 to 2008. [293981]

Ian Lucas: Full figures are not separately identifiable for trade in video games as a whole: royalties, licence fees and trade in services associated with video games are not separately identifiable; nor are trade in goods figures for video games not for use with a television receiver. The figures in the following table are for trade in goods for video games for use with a television receiver (Harmonised System code 950410) recorded in the overseas trade statistics.

£ million	*Exports*	*Imports*
2001	71	216
2002	139	465
2003	104	387
2004	68	283
2005	86	285
2006	114	516
2007	182	1,026
2008	220	1,140

White Phosphorus

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information the Export Control Organisation requires of companies seeking an export licence for munitions containing white phosphorus. [294265]

Ian Lucas: Companies applying for a standard individual export licence (SIEL) to export any munitions, including those containing white phosphorus, must provide the Export Control Organisation with sufficient information to allow an assessment against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and any other relevant announced policies to be made.

This includes providing sufficient technical details to allow the correct control list entry for the goods to be identified; specific quantities and values; the name of the end-user, consignee and any other parties involved in the transaction; and information on what the munitions will be used for. Companies also have to supply a signed end-user undertaking from the end user, which is used to corroborate information provided in the application form.

Applications for open individual export licences (OIEL) must include the same information, except specific quantities and values and not normally required.

Work of Manufacturing Insight

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the work of Manufacturing Insight. [295120]

Ian Lucas: Manufacturing Insight has not yet been formally launched. Nick Hussey was appointed director of Manufacturing Insight on 1 September 2009. The Manufacturing Insight Board will closely monitor and assess achievements over the short, medium and longer term, against the agreed business plan. The business plan is currently being agreed with the board and is expected to be finalised autumn 2009.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Energy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department may transfer to third parties data held on its register of the energy performance of buildings. [294889]

John Healey: The Secretary of State may disclose data to third parties held on its register in accordance with part 6 of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 as amended.

We plan to consult later this year on a strategy to allow third parties greater access to the energy performance of buildings data.

Common Purpose: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 18 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, how much his Department has paid to Common Purpose since its establishment; and who the young leaders being trained by Common Purpose are. [294663]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government has funded Common Purpose a total of £215,000 since 2007 to provide leadership training to members of Muslim communities.

2006-07: £85,000 to provide leadership training to 40 Muslim community leaders.

2007-08: £65,000 to deliver training to 60 emerging leaders within the Muslim Community, with a particular focus on women, young people and faith leaders.

2008-09: £65,000 to provide leadership training to 65 younger members of the Muslim community, including a schools and colleges programme.

Communities and Local Government has also spent £20,950 on six Common Purpose training programmes for members of CLG staff since the year 2000.

Community Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report associated with his Department's publication 'Evaluation of the Take-up and Use of the Well-being Power: research summary' published in November 2008. [294553]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The research report was published in November 2008 by the university of Birmingham and university of the West of England; entitled 'Formative Evaluation of the Take-up and Implementation of the Well Being Power, 2003-07, Final Report 2007'. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what method his Department used to determine the *(a)* wards and *(b)* local authorities to receive funding from the first wave of its Connecting Communities programme. [294882]

Mr. Malik: Neighbourhoods have been identified by examining a range of hard and soft data around cohesion, deprivation and crime, perceived unfairness in the allocation of resources and feedback from people working locally. Over 100 authorities have now indicated interest in being part of Connecting Communities. The first 27 areas across 21 local authorities announced on 14 October are those that have a good understanding of what they want to do and are ready to start work immediately. Discussions are continuing with another 80 local authorities that should be ready to go live later this year.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of usage of section 106 agreements of the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. [294525]

Barbara Follett: As part of the Government's consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which was launched on 30 July 2009 and will conclude on 23 October 2009, the Government have proposed that the facility to enter into a negotiated planning obligation using section 106 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act will remain when CIL is introduced. However, the Government have stated their intention to make changes to the operation of section 106 following the introduction of CIL. Details of the Government's proposals are set out in chapter 5 of the CIL consultation document.

Conservation Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which single conservation areas the Homes and Communities Agency has established; and which local authority areas each covers. [294893]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency has not established any single conservation areas. The agency is in regular contact with organisations such as English Nature as well as relevant local authorities to ensure conservation aspects of proposals are considered.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on the collection of data on domestic properties for the purpose of revaluing properties for council tax; and what data sources not controlled by his Department have been used for this revaluation. [294549]

Barbara Follett: The postponement of the 2007 council tax revaluation was announced in September 2005. There has been no further work on revaluation since that date.

With regard to the costs to central Government of the postponed revaluation, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 327W, which explained that these cannot be separately identified.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency plans to perform point valuations on individual properties as part of its revaluation for council tax in England. [294601]

Barbara Follett: There is no revaluation of council tax in England.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 76 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, to whom the £301,000 payment in settlement of a personal injury claim was made in December 2008; and where the injury occurred. [294650]

Barbara Follett: This amount relates to a payment made to a private individual. Disclosing the name of this individual would breach the first data protection principle. However, I can confirm that the payment was in settlement of a personal injury compensation claim which was brought against the Department by a former Property Services Agency employee who contracted mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 76 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, to whom the £750,000 compensation payment in respect of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme was made in November 2008; and for what reasons. [294654]

Barbara Follett: The payment of £750,000 in November 2008 was an out of court settlement to Cannock Chase district council in respect of legal challenges.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 76 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, to whom the £9.3 million compensation payment was made in October 2008; and for what reasons. [294655]

Barbara Follett: This payment was made to the Midlands Co-operative Society Ltd. It was in settlement of a claim relating to the handling of a planning case which was investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. This is explained further in chapter 10.83 of the departmental annual report.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 18 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, what the ConnCom Plus programme is. [294662]

Barbara Follett: The ConnCom Plus programme, as listed in the Communities and Local Government Resource Accounts for 2008-09 (the payment listed was paid in 2007-08), was the Connecting Communities Plus programme, a grant programme for organisations working to promote race equality and community cohesion. The Community Development Foundation (CDF) managed the community grants part of this programme on behalf of CLG and this money was disbursed by the CDF to successful grant recipients.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the job vacancies for three departmental advisers on faith and community issues, advertised by his Department in August 2009, for what reasons the vacancies *(a)* are for 12-month fixed-term contracts and *(b)* were not advertised through the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway or departmental website. [292980]

Mr. Malik: Communities and Local Government occasionally recruits specialist staff on a time-limited basis, to provide additional expertise and capacity as required.

Communities and Local Government advertised the three departmental advisers on faith and community posts in accordance with the rules set out by the Office of the Civil Service Commissioners. We advertised these posts through the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway and the departmental website as well as a range of specific faith and community press, and national media.

Eco-towns: Domestic Waste

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has participated in the production of guidance on the prevention of household waste in eco-towns. [294667]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1652-53W.

Fire Engines: Sales

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire engines have been sold by the Fire Service in each of the last three years. [291638]

Mr. Malik: Disposal of assets is a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities. The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Fire Prevention

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance and advice notes his Department has issued in relation to *(a)* integrated fire risk management plans and *(b)* the national fire services framework. [292707]

Mr. Malik: IRMP Guidance Note 4 was reissued in September 2009 and offers Fire and Rescue Authorities a framework in which to develop, implement and manage a risk-based inspection programme which takes account of both the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and CLG's update of the 'Other Building Fire Frequencies' data which underpin the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) Toolkit.

The current Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) National Framework for 2008 to 2010 was published May 2008.

The Department issues FRS circulars, the majority of which provide important information or guidance on expectations set out within the National Framework. A table listing the 62 circulars issued to date for 2009 has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to fire authorities on Community Risk Management. [292825]

Mr. Malik: Fire and Rescue Authorities produce Community Risk Plans as part of the Integrated Risk Management Planning process.

FRAs are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances—evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resource accordingly.

A range of guidance on the drawing up of IRMPs has been issued to FRAs and is available on the Communities and Local Government website.

FRAs are also required by the National Framework, in drawing up their IRMPs, to have regard to the risk analyses completed by Local and Regional Resilience Forums including those reported in external Community Risk Registers (CRRs) and internal risk registers, to ensure that civil and terrorist contingencies are captured in their IRMP.

The Cabinet Office issues guidance in the form of the Local Risk Assessment Guidance which contains information on generic hazards and threats that should assist category 1 responders (including the fire and rescue service) in performing their risk assessment duties required under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Fire Research Academy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department has allocated for the establishment of the Fire Research Academy. [292591]

Mr. Malik: Pump-priming of a sector led 'Fire Research Academy' is included in this year's Fire and Resilience Directorate research programme, which was drawn up in consultation with stakeholders.

Funding is not yet allocated to it and will be dependent upon the sustainability of any business proposal put forward, the level of sector support and ministerial consideration.

Fire Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to fire and rescue authorities on *(a)* the reconfiguration of fire services, *(b)* the use of retained firefighters by fire services and *(c)* fire station closures. [292711]

Mr. Malik: Decisions on issues such as the provision of fire services and the closure of fire stations are taken by individual Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) as part of the Integrated Risk Management Planning process.

FRAs are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances—evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resources, accordingly. That would include decisions regarding the appropriate deployment of all firefighters including those working on the retained duty system.

A range of guidance on the drawing up of IRMPs has been issued to FRAs and is available on the Communities and Local Government website.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 13 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, for what reasons the FireLink project has been delayed; what assessment he has made of the implications for fire services of such a delay; and if he will make a statement. [294666]

Mr. Malik: The primary reason for the delays to the Firelink project arose from the contractor's under-estimate of the time required to enhance the resilience of their network. All Fire and Rescue Services excepting two are now migrated onto the Firelink system; Shropshire and London are scheduled to be migrated by March 2010.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment was made of the merits of using employment legislation to prohibit industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union on public safety grounds during the Iraq conflict in 2003. [292631]

Mr. Malik: The legal implications of the industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union were kept under review throughout the dispute, including the period before and after the start of the Iraq conflict in March 2003. As indicated by the Solicitor-General on 19 December 2002, *Official Report*, column 943W, the Attorney-General has the power to apply to the court for an injunction to prevent threatened breaches of the criminal law. It is the Attorney-General's duty to keep under constant review the question whether to exercise this power.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire authorities in Wales have entered into contracts with private sector companies to provide fire cover in the event of industrial action. [292748]

Mr. Hain: I have been asked to reply.

Matters relating to the fire service in Wales are devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government.

The three chief fire officers in Wales have advised that none of the fire authorities in Wales have entered into contracts with private sector companies to provide fire cover in the event of industrial action.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 237W, on fire services: industrial disputes, for what reason *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Government Offices for the Regions do not hold copies of contingency plans prepared by fire and rescue authorities in relation to industrial action in the fire service; and whether his Department has made an assessment of the resilience and effectiveness of the fire service in the event of national industrial action by firefighters. [292986]

Mr. Malik: The preparation, updating and retention of contingency plans for industrial action in the fire and rescue service is the responsibility of fire and rescue authorities. The need to have a contingency plan in place is a requirement of the National Framework for the Fire and Rescue Service, compliance with which is assessed by the Audit Commission as part of their Comprehensive Area Assessment for the fire and rescue service.

Fire Services: Pay

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the salary is of the *(a)* chair and *(b)* vice chair of each fire authority in the East of England. [295369]

Mr. Malik: This information is not held centrally.

FiReBuy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the abolition of Firebuy Ltd. and the creation of a successor body. [292582]

Mr. Malik: In my written statement of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 65WS, I said that our review of national procurement in the Fire and Rescue Service in England had concluded that a national procurement body represented the best way to deliver fire-specific collaborative procurement. For the future, we proposed that this role should be carried out within a larger organisation, also responsible for the management of the service contracts for the Fire and Resilience Programme. These proposals were set out in a consultation paper issued in July, the deadline for responses to which was 5 October 2009. The responses are now being considered and a further announcement will be made in due course.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1422W, if he will now place in the Library a copy of the Stage 3 Gateway Review on the FireBuy integrated clothing project. [293339]

Mr. Malik: As reported in the response of 28 January 2009, it is not general practice to make available the outcome of gateway reviews. The Stage 3 Gateway Review of Firebuy's Integrated Clothing Project will therefore not be placed in the Library.

Green Belt: South East

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W, on green belt: South East, whether a sustainability appraisal was undertaken in relation to the specific proposals in the South East Plan to review green belt protection in named locations. [292866]

Mr. Malik: The South East Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal, before it was published in May of this year, as required by Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. That included an assessment of the effect of the policies in the RSS.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will initiate a review of the effectiveness of home information packs against the objective set for the policy. [294595]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1989W.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of dwellings in England are recorded on the Valuation Office Agency's database with *(a)* dwellinghouse and *(b)* value significant code data. [294911]

Barbara Follett: As at 2 October 2009 there were 22,773,690 dwellings in council tax valuation lists in England. Of these *(a)* all have at least one of the 16 dwellinghouse codes and *(b)* 6,135,817 (27 per cent.) have one or more of the value significant codes.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* audit and *(b)* inspection fees the Audit Commission has charged each local authority in England in each of the last three years. [294089]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 22 October 2009:

Parliamentary Question: what *(a)* audit and *(b)* inspection fees the Audit Commission has charged each local authority in England in each of the last three years.

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Attached are two tables providing the audit and inspection fees the Audit Commission has charged to each principal local authority in England in each of the last three years (2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09).

The lists of bodies are different as not all local authorities (as defined by section 270 of the Local Government Act 1972) are subject to the Audit Commission's inspection powers.

Audit fees (Table 1)—tables available in the Library of the House.

The audit fees provided exclude some 9,500 parish and town councils. The vast majority of these have income or expenditure below £1 million and are subject to the limited assurance audit approach set out in Schedule 1 to the statutory Code of Audit Practice. They have fixed audit fees based on the income or expenditure and we have excluded the fees as it would take a disproportionate amount of time to collate the information requested.

The final audit fees for:

the audit of the 2008/09 accounts; and

nine 2007/08 audits, which have yet to be certified as completed (marked by *);

have not yet been determined by the Commission (as required by section 7 of the Audit Commission Act 1998) as not all audits have been completed. We expect the fees to be determined early in 2010.

Inspection fees (Table 2)

The inspection fees provided relate to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) system. Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) was introduced from 1 April 2009; and with the introduction of CAA, the Commission's income from inspection fees has reduced significantly. Comparing the final full year of CPA (2007/08) with the first year of CAA (2009/10), inspection fee income from local authorities has reduced from £11.6 million to £6.7 million.

A copy of this letter has been placed in *Hansard*.

Local Government Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy on the Total Place initiative is; and how many councils he expects to participate in pilot schemes under the initiative. [294880]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Total Place is an ambitious initiative that will consider how a 'whole area' approach to public services can lead to better services at less cost through 13 pilot areas covering 63 councils from across England.

This work forms part of the Operational Efficiency programme (OEP) strand led by Sir Michael Bichard which seeks to create the environment where collaboration and innovation on the frontline leads to reduced costs and new ways of working.

Each of the pilots has picked at least one particular theme to explore in detail how delivery partners in the pilot area will work together, to identify innovative ways to deliver better, customer-led services for less. It will help them to bring together the evidence on the needs of their customers, and on what is being spent, by which agencies, and on what services, to address those needs.

Local Government Services: Religion

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has issued any recent guidance to local authorities on *(a)* religious segregation in municipal facilities and *(b)* compulsory dress codes in swimming pools. [292698]

Mr. Malik: The Department has issued neither type of guidance.

Local Government: Elections

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has performed an impact assessment in relation to the proposals contained in its consultation paper on changing council government arrangements for mayors and indirectly elected leaders. [294512]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The focus of the Changing Council Governance Arrangements consultation were proposals set out in the white paper, "Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power." An impact assessment for those proposals was published on the Department's website on 9 July 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesincontrol6

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to addressing a deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme through *(a)* raising the retirement age and *(b)* increasing employee contributions. [294566]

Barbara Follett: The Local Government Pension Scheme is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains affordable, viable and fair to taxpayers. A new-look scheme became fully operational on 1 April 2008.

Its arrangements are being monitored and the next actuarial valuation exercise, as at 31 March 2010, will further assist in the scheme's stewardship.

Local Government: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the changes made to the Code of Conduct on Local Authority Publicity in 2001 on the content, publication and distribution of local authority unsolicited newspapers. [294514]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has made no assessment of the effect of the changes made in 2001 to the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. However our consultation on the code earlier this year invited views on how the code might be revised and we shall be publishing our response to the over 300 comments we received before the end of the year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will amend the Code of Conduct on Local Authority Publicity to prevent local authorities publishing newspapers which directly compete with commercial local newspapers by incorporating similar content; [294522]

(2) what progress has been made in the revision of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. [294597]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Later this year we will be publishing our response to the over 300 representations we received on our consultation earlier this year about possible revisions to the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. These responses did not show any widespread concern about council freesheets and newsletters.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he expects to reply to the letter of 24 July 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay on funding for the Decent Homes programme; [295317]

(2) when he expects to reply to the letters of 19 August and 22 September 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay regarding his constituents, Ms Watson and Mr. Judd. [295320]

John Healey: I have now replied to the hon. Member's letters.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what month in 2009 his Department plans to start publishing figures on the number of households which have received support from the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [290476]

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish figures on the take-up of the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [292461]

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each London borough have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted assistance under the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme in each quarter since the scheme's inception; and if he will make a statement. [293049]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, West (John Battle) on 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1506W.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of *(a)* net and *(b)* gross revenue from business rates in (i) 1997-98, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11. [294463]

Barbara Follett: Details of the gross and net revenue (in £ millions) from business rates in (i) 1998-99, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 are shown in the following table. Data for 1997-98 are not available.

£ million

	Gross revenue	Net revenue
1998-99	12,950	11,445
2008-09	20,638	19,072
2009-10	22,473	20,623
2010-11	23,445	—

Data for 1998-99, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are taken from the local lists and are collected on national non-domestic rates (NNDR1 and NNDR3) returns completed by all billing authorities in England. Data for 1998-99 and 2008-09 are outturn data; data for 2009-10 are budget data. NNDR data for 2010-11 are not yet available. However an estimate of the gross revenue for 2010-11 has been provided using the figure used in consulting on the 2010 revaluation transitional arrangements. This figure assumed zero inflation. No estimates have been made of the net revenue figure for 2010-11. The 2010-11 data were calculated on a different basis to those collected on the NNDR forms and so the figures are not strictly comparable.

The data for 2008-09 are published in Table 1 of the statistical release "National non-domestic rates collected by local authorities in England 2008-09".

The data for 2009-10 are published in Table 1 of the statistical release "National non-domestic rates to be collected by local authorities in England 2009-10".

Both these releases are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/

The data for 2010-11 are published in Table 1 of the consultation paper "The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-domestic Rating Revaluation" published on 8 July 2009. This paper can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

Gross revenue is defined as the yield from non-domestic rates that could be collected in the year, irrespective of the year to which it relates, before the deduction of reliefs and before any allowances for the cost of collection.

Net revenue is defined as the yield from non-domestic rates that could be collected in the year, irrespective of the year to which it relates, after the deduction of reliefs and before any allowance for the cost of collection.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes are proposed to the thresholds for *(a)* small business rate relief, *(b)* empty property rate relief and *(c)* supplementary business rates following the 2010 non-domestic rate revaluation. [294552]

Barbara Follett: The rateable value thresholds in the Small Business Rate Relief scheme will increase from 1 April 2010. Eligible businesses, who generally occupy only one property, with a rateable value of £6,000 or below (increased from £5,000) may apply for 50 per cent. relief. Eligible ratepayers with a rateable value between £6,001 and £12,000 (increased from £5,001 and £10,000 respectively) may apply for relief on a sliding scale between 50 and 0 per cent.. Eligible ratepayers with a rateable value between £12,001 and £17,999 or £25,499 in Greater London (increased from £10,001, £14,999 and £21,499 respectively) may apply for their rates liability to be calculated using the small business non-domestic multiplier. Additional properties with a rateable value up to £2,599 (increased from £2,199) can be disregarded in deciding whether the single occupancy criterion has been met. However, the rateable values of such properties are included in determining whether or not the threshold criterion has been met.

No decisions have been made on changes to the threshold for empty property relief as a result of revaluation 2010. Hereditaments with a rateable value of £50,000 or less will be exempt from the business rate supplements. In addition there is discretion within the Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 for levying authorities to increase the liability threshold.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* a small firm and *(b)* a rural proofing impact assessment has been undertaken in respect of the 2010 rates revaluation. [294886]

Barbara Follett: Regular revaluations are a standard part of the business rates system and are required by statute. Therefore, no impact assessment has been undertaken by my Department on the overall implementation of the 2010 business rates revaluation. An impact assessment on the proposed transitional arrangements scheme for revaluation 2010 was published on 8 July and includes sections on rural areas and small firms.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the change in revenue to accrue from empty property rates relief in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [294908]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities reported they granted £1,294 million of empty property relief in 2007-08 and £487 million of empty property relief in 2008-09. They estimate they will grant empty property relief of £570 million in 2009-10.

These data are available in the "National non-domestic rates" statistics releases that are available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/

Non-Domestic Rates: Religious Buildings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W, on non-domestic rates: religious buildings, what criteria the Registrar General uses when determining whether to certify the premises of a faith community or religion as a place of religious worship. [294776]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

The Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 provides for places of meeting for religious worship to be certified to the Registrar General but does not apply to the established Church. When considering the registration of a building which has been certified as a place of religious worship, the Registrar General applies the judgment by the Court of Appeal in the Segerdal case. The main finding in the judgment is that the words 'place of meeting for religious worship' in the Act connote a place of which the principal use is for people to come together as a congregation to worship God or do reverence to a deity. Apart from the Church of England and the Church in Wales, any faith or denomination which meets these criteria would be capable of recognition under the 1855 Act.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's valuation scales for the 2010 business rates revaluation. [294511]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Office Agency has published the valuation scales used for the 2010 non domestic rating revaluation and they may be found on the Agency's website:

www.voa.gov.uk

"Help section", valuation scale pages.

Parish Councils

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman is in respect of parish councils. [294890]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Government Ombudsman has no remit in respect of parish and town councils.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made on the disposal of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre; and if he will make a statement. [291895]

Mr. Malik: The Department and the Shareholder Executive commissioned a site development study on the QEIICC in late June. This is about to be finalised and considered. A further update on progress will be provided at the time of the pre-Budget report 2009.

Racial Discrimination

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 118-9WS, on the Tackling Race Inequalities Fund, when he expects funding to be allocated to each organisation listed. [293051]

Mr. Malik: The Tackling Race Inequalities Fund programme was announced subject to agreeing detailed work programmes and monitoring and reporting arrangements.

As at 14 October my Department has approved 26 of the detailed workplans out of the total 27 successful projects.

The Tackling Race Inequalities Fund (TRIF) managing agent—the Community Development Foundation (CDF)—has issued a total of 24 funding agreements to the TRIF funded organisations that have approved workplans; they are currently in contact with the organisations to agree administrative processes, and the last organisation regarding their detail work programme. CDF has received 13 signed funding agreements and paid over grant funding on receipt of a grant claim from these TRIF funded organisations.

Recycled Capital Grant Fund

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the outstanding balance of the Homes and Communities Agency's Recycled Capital Grants Receipts Programme funding was at the last date for which figures are available. [294950]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 970W.

Refuges: Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of refuges which will *(a)* lose funding and *(b)* close as a result of changes to his Department's Supporting People funding arrangements. [292522]

Mr. Malik: The provision of Supporting People housing-related support services, including domestic violence provision, is a matter for local authorities to determine based on local needs and priorities. CLG, through annual expenditure returns and quarterly Supporting People local systems data monitor the expenditure and number of available services funded from the Supporting People programme.

Based on the expenditure information provided annually by local authorities, expenditure on domestic violence services in England has increased each year in both monetary and percentage terms.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many refuges which formerly accepted only female domestic violence victims now accept both males and females. [292523]

Mr. Malik: The Department does not collect this information.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with Weymouth and Portland Borough Council on the closure of its domestic violence refuge. [292524]

Mr. Malik: None. The decision regarding the commissioning, procurement and provision of domestic violence services is a matter for local authorities.

Shelter: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 20 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, what public consultations Shelter has promoted with the funds provided by his Department. [294660]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1365W.

Social Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Home and Communities Agency on the takeover of equity stakes in registered social landlord developments; and if he will make a statement. [291669]

John Healey: My Department has regular meetings at ministerial and official level with the Homes and Communities Agency. These meetings cover a broad range of topics relating to the Agency's remit. I have had no discussions with the Home and Communities Agency specifically on the takeover of equity stakes in registered social landlord developments.

Supporting People Programme

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department provided per participant under the Supporting People programme in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [291464]

Mr. Malik: Supporting People funding is not allocated or monitored on a "per participant" basis.

The Supporting People grant is allocated to top tier local authorities by using the Supporting People distribution formula. The distribution formula assesses relative need between authorities, mainly on the basis of the numbers of vulnerable people at risk, with allowances for levels of deprivation and cost differences. Therefore the distribution formula calculates 'target allocations' for each authority based on the level of need for housing related support.

Local authorities submit an annual return on the total expenditure on Supporting People in the financial year. Local authorities also provide a quarterly snapshot of the number of household units available (i.e. the capacity of housing related support services).

Tenant Services Authority

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the terms of reference of the Tenant Services Authority's new advisory group on investigating new forms of tenancy and part-ownership are. [292625]

John Healey: The formation of an advisory group was announced by the chief executive officer of the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) at the National Housing Federation conference in September. The objective of the group is to review the needs of prospective tenants and the role of mutual and community forms of ownership in meeting those needs, while identifying options that may help meet the needs of people unable to access affordable housing in places they want to live and work.

The terms of reference for this group are currently being developed.

Tony Clements

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 655W, on Tony Clements, whether Mr. Tony Clements works with any Minister in his Department in a political advisory role; and what the *(a)* terms and *(b)* duration of his employment are. [294535]

Barbara Follett: Mr. Clements is employed as civil servant, and does not, therefore, work in a political advisory role. He has a one-year fixed-term contract, with standard terms and conditions.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets for numbers of additional Traveller pitches have been proposed in the most recent version of each regional spatial strategy; and what period of time is proposed for meeting this target in each such strategy. [292805]

Mr. Malik: The number of additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches needed in each region, and the proposed time frame, is as follows:

Draft regional spatial strategies

Strategy	*Time frame*	*Pitches*
North-West	2007-2021	1,390
Yorkshire and Humber	n/a	Pitch figures being worked up
West Midlands	2007-2017	1,183
South-East	2006-2016	1,064
South-West	2006-2011	1,634
London	2007-2017	538

Finalised regional spatial strategies

Strategy	*Time frame*	*Pitches*
East of England	2008-2021	1,237
North-East	2008-2021	166
North-West	2008-2021	No pitch figures
Yorkshire and Humber	2008-2026	255
East Midlands	2009-2026	883
South-East	2006-2026	No pitch figures
London	2011-2031	No pitch figures

Travelling People: Racial Discrimination

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Travellers will be able to apply for grants from the Tackling Race Inequalities Fund. [293258]

Mr. Malik: Yes. The Tackling Race Inequalities Fund (TRIF) was announced in February 2009, to support third sector organisations working to tackle race inequalities (and promote equality of opportunity for people of all ethnic groups). My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the 27 third sector organisations on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 119WS. Two of these organisations (The Rural Media Company and Friends, Families and Travellers) will be working with the Gypsy, Roma and Travellers communities. The grant funding is for two years until the end of March 2011.

Valuation Office: Surveillance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency has undertaken surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [294624]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Office Agency has not undertaken any surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 since the Act came into force.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos: Licensing

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 553W, on asbestos: documents, (1) how many and what percentage of electronic files held since 1984 were retained after the seven-year review held in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's document retention policy; [294168]

(2) how many and what percentage of paper files held since 1984 were retained after the nine-year review held in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's document retention policy. [294169]

Jim Knight: The information is not readily available in an accessible format and could therefore be provided only at disproportionate time and cost.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on advertising in each newspaper in the latest year for which figures are available. [289483]

Jim Knight: Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to have the desired effect they must be communicated effectively while representing value to the taxpayer. We want everyone to claim all the help they are entitled to.

The DWP provides services for over 20 million people, from helping the most vulnerable pensioners to getting people back to work and much of this Department's communications activity is aimed at raising awareness of these vital services and entitlements. Our communications also contribute to the Department's work to tackle benefit fraud.

The channels used for advertising in the media are firstly via the advertising and media buying roster of the Central Office of Information (COI) for campaign and editorial requirements, and, secondly, via local and national newspapers for recruitment and low value, low complexity adverts on behalf of DWP agencies.

The Department's spend on newspaper advertising for 2008-09 is as follows:

Spend on newspaper advertising for 2008-09

	Total value (£ million)
Central Office of Information (COI)	4.12
DWP Direct Advertising	1.11

Note:
Costs given are for media spend only and exclude the cost of creative work, research, production of supporting materials or launch events.
Sources:
1. Central Office of Information source—COI 28 September 2009
2. DWP direct advertising source—DWP Commercial Intelligence

We are not able to provide the breakdown of costs by publication as we use so many that we would incur disproportionate cost in trying to identify each individual publication listed in the spend data files.

Employment and Support Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average time taken to process *(a)* an employment support allowance (ESA) claim where a medical certificate was required and *(b)* an ESA claim where a repeat or duplicate request for a medical certificate was made was in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by benefit delivery centre; [293414]

(2) how many requests have been made for medical certificates for the purpose of processing employment support allowance (ESA) claims in the most recent period for which figures are available; and how many duplicate or repeat requests have been made for medical certificates for the purpose of processing ESA claims, broken down by benefit delivery centre in each case. [293425]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what the average time taken to process (a) an Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claim where a medical certificate was required and (b) an ESA claim where a repeat or duplicate request for a medical certificate was made in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by benefit delivery centre; and how many requests have been made for medical certificates for the purpose of processing Employment and Support Allowance claims in the most recent period for which figures are available; and how many duplicate or repeat requests have been made for medical certificates for the purpose of processing ESA claims, broken down by benefit delivery centre in each case. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Performance against our average processing time targets are published on the Jobcentre Plus external website. The clearance times for Employment and Support Allowance are not yet part of Jobcentre Plus's targets. They will form part of the published target suite from April 2010 and will be placed on the website shortly afterwards.

The reason for the delay in publishing the official figures is because it is necessary for Jobcentre Plus to first collect an appropriate amount of performance data with which to inform and set a relevant target level.

We are currently exploring whether we can develop some official statistics on processing times for Employment and Support Allowance new claims in the near future.

Jobcentre Plus does not collate any information on requests for medical certificates so we are unable to supply the information requested with relevance to this element.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of those who stopped claiming employment and support allowance before their assessment was completed were *(a)* in work, *(b)* claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and *(c)* not recorded as being in work or claiming JSA up to the end of August 2009. [294741]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 21 October 2009]:* The information is not available in the form requested. However, statistics published last week showed that between October 2008 and February 2009 38 per cent. of new claimants to employment and support allowance stopped claiming benefit before the work capability assessment in their case was completed.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the eligibility criteria are for individuals seeking to be referred to *(a)* Workstep, *(b)* the Job Introduction Scheme and *(c)* Work Preparation. [295028]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* To be eligible for Workstep an individual must be disabled, as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This Act defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities'. In addition, Workstep customers must also fall within one of the Workstep eligibility codes. This information is in the following table:

Workstep eligibility codes

Code	*Details*
A	On incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance/national insurance credits only and/or income support, or on employment and support allowance
B	On jobseeker's allowance and/or national insurance credits only, for six months or more in a current or 'linked' job seeking period
C	On jobseeker's allowance, and/or national insurance credits only, for less than six months but have been in receipt of incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance, immediately before claiming jobseeker's allowance
D	A former supported employee who has progressed but needs to return to the programme within two years or has left for any other reasons and returns within one year
E	Currently in work but at serious risk of losing their job as a result of disability, even after the employer has made all reasonable adjustments and considered other available support options
F	A recent/prospective education leaver who does not fall within Codes A to E above, but for whom there is clear evidence of a need for support in work
G	A customer who has been granted access to Workstep through a discretionary decision, where a full business case has been sent to the Jobcentre Plus district third party provision manager and approval has been granted
H	A customer who is receiving a war disablement pension or help from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Note:
Two or more job seeking periods can be 'linked' and treated as one if they are separated only by: a linked period (for any length of time) comprising incapacity benefit, invalid care allowance, maternity allowance or training allowance; a break in an individual's claim, where the claim is terminated for not more than 12 weeks between any two linked job seeking periods; any length of time spent on jury service.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Workstep Programme Guidance, Chapter 3, Eligibility and Referrals.

Disability employment advisers also have the discretion to refer a disabled person to a suitable provider if they are satisfied that all other options have been considered and that Workstep is the most appropriate option.

The Job Introduction Scheme is available in cases where an employer or their prospective employee has genuine concerns about the individual's ability to manage the job due to their disability. For the Job Introduction Scheme to be considered, the applicant must be 'disabled' as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The job can be full or part-time, must be expected to last for at least six months (including the Job Introduction Scheme period) and must be a genuine job (not specifically created to take advantage of the Job Introduction Scheme). Applicants do not need to be in receipt of any eligible benefits to apply.

In order to benefit from Work Preparation programmes, customers must be unemployed and:

be on the disability employment adviser's caseload, regardless of employment or benefit status;

have a defined job goal;

have disability-related needs when making a final choice of occupation or looking for work effectively;

be likely to be capable of working or undertaking training by the end of the programme;

be at least 16 years old.

The programme may also be able to help customers to retain their current work, where there is a real risk of the customer losing their job and Work Preparation will significantly help them to retain the same job or move to a more suitable alternative job.

Financial Assistance Scheme: Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many convictions for offences of fraud in relation to *(a)* the Financial Assistance Scheme and *(b)* the Pension Protection Fund there have been in (i) England and Wales, (ii) the East of England, (iii) Essex and (iv) Castle Point constituency in each year since the inception of each scheme. [295670]

Angela Eagle: There have been no convictions relating to fraud committed in relation to the Financial Assistance Scheme or the Pensions Protection Fund since their inception.

Future Jobs Fund: Brighton

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people in Brighton and Hove she expects to receive assistance from the Future Jobs Fund. [291436]

Jim Knight: Successful bids to the Future Jobs Fund to date will create around 130 jobs in the Brighton and Hove area. This includes jobs to be created via successful bids from the National Skills Academy for Sports and the Football League Trust. As the bidding process is ongoing, we may receive other bids to create jobs in the Brighton and Hove Area.

Source:

Future Jobs Fund Management Information.

Future Jobs Fund: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs she expects to be created under the Future Jobs Fund in *(a)* Tamworth, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in the next 12 months; and what types of job she expects to be created. [294066]

Jim Knight: The first round of awards for the Future Jobs Fund are initially for delivery over a six-month period.

There are no specific bids for Tamworth, as yet.

The joint bid for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is currently creating 524 jobs between October 2009 and March 2010. National bids may also create jobs in this area.

The following table has the number of jobs expected to be created in the West Midlands:

Jobs created under the Future Jobs Fund

First round bidders in West Midlands	*October 2009-March 2010*
Birmingham, Coventry and Black Country	3,552
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	524
St. Paul's Community Development Trust	100
Warwickshire County Council	73
Herefordshire Council	54
Shropshire County Council (Training)	60
Total	4,363

Notes:

1. The first round of awards are initially for delivery over a six-month period.
2. The types of jobs that are being created include:

Green Jobs/Environmental Improvement/Sustainability
Health/Social Care/Education/Children's Care
Youth work
Arts/Enterprise
Housing/Construction - low carbon economy
Administration/Business/Enterprise
Community/Voluntary
Leisure/Tourism/Hospitality

Fylde

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were employed in each section of her Department in the Borough of Fylde in each of the last five years. [291946]

Jim Knight: The number of people employed in each of the Department's business areas in the Borough of Fylde at 31 March of each year from 2005 to 2009 is shown in the following table.

Headcount	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Borough of Fylde					
Jobcentre Plus	681	542	519	385	169
Pensions, Disability and Carers Service[1]	169	140	102	83	38
Child Support Agency[2]	382	371	365	260	0
Corporate and Shared Services	489	340	199	147	457

Headcount	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Total	1,721	1,393	1,185	875	664

[1] The Pensions Disability and Carers Service was formed in 2008 by the merger of The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service. For consistency the figures have been combined for earlier years also.

[2] The Child Support Agency transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on 1 November 2008. Figures shown are on the basis of headcount i.e. the number of individual staff employed.

The increase in the Corporate and Shared Services area between 2008 and 2009 and reductions in Jobcentre Plus and Pensions, Disability and Carers Service are largely the result of a transfer of staff from delivery businesses as part of a restructuring of the Information Technology function.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit claimants there were in each year since 1997. [295094]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the following tables.

Number of housing benefit recipients in Great Britain : May 1997 to May 2007

	Number
1997	4,639,350
1998	4,474,700
1999	4,313,100
2000	4,033,300
2001	3,874,400
2002	3,812,630
2003	3,796,420
2004	3,879,420
2005	3,956,820
2006	3,990,030
2007	4,031,810

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in May 1997 to May 2007

Number of housing benefit recipients in Great Britain November 2008 and May 2009

	Number
2008	4,168,610
2009	4,403,980

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) for November 2008 and May 2009 taken from Table 2 of publication at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/HBCTB19082009.xls

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of completed work capability assessments have involved former claimants of incapacity benefit; and if she will make a statement. [294742]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 October 2009]:* National level statistics on the Work Capability Assessment covering Great Britain were published on 13 October 2009 and are available via the Office for National Statistics Publication Hub. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library and can be accessed directly on the following website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca.asp

Full benefit information for completed Work Capability Assessments is not available as some assessments cannot yet be linked to an Employment and Support Allowance claim. The volume and percentage of all Employment and Support Allowance new claims from October 2008 to February 2009 that have completed the Work Capability Assessment with an incapacity benefit claim in the previous two years are provided in the following table.

Number and percentage of employment and support allowance new claims from October 2008 to February 2009 completing the work capability assessment with an incapacity benefit claim in the two years prior to the employment and support allowance claim

	Number	*Percentage*
Total	20,400	—
Percentage	—	20

Notes:

1. These data are based on recorded advice from ATOS, rather than the Decision Maker's final determination. The final outcomes of cases may change. This will be further compounded by reconsiderations following additional medical evidence and the outcomes of appeals. Full guidance on the national figures is included in the published statistics referred to in the table.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people *(a)* in total, *(b)* aged 18 to 24, *(c)* aged 25 to 49 and *(d)* aged 50 years and over who made a new claim for (i) incapacity benefit and (ii) employment and support allowance in the most recent year for which figures are available in (A) Pathways to Work Jobcentre Plus-led areas and (B) Pathways to Work-led areas were in work (1) six months and (2) one year later. [291087]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Mentally Ill

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the likely impact on the mental health of people in receipt of incapacity benefit due to mental health problems of proposals to change eligibility for incapacity benefit. [293087]

Jonathan Shaw: Several steps have been taken to mitigate any stress caused to those with mental health conditions upon entering the claim process for employment and support allowance.

The questionnaire that most customers will fill in when they claim employment and support allowance (the ESA50) has been redesigned to make it more customer-friendly. We have improved the wording, lay-out and design of the form. The questionnaire used for the previous assessment did not fully take into account the cognitive functions of people with learning disabilities and other conditions such as brain damage, that are not mental health problems. The new questionnaire also includes the opportunity for individuals to detail fluctuations in the nature of their condition. Where customers suffer from mental health conditions, the claim will be progressed even if the questionnaire is not completed.

Every month a customer satisfaction survey is sent at random to a large number of customers. This ensures an ongoing assessment of the customer experience and highlights any areas in need of review and improvement.

In addition, to protect our most vulnerable customers, Jobcentre Plus has ensured that safeguards are embedded into the design and delivery of employment and support allowance. These safeguards ensure that where a customer has a mental health condition, and fails to comply with the Work Capability Assessment processes, benefit will not be withdrawn until their responsibilities have been explained to them either by telephone contact or a home visit.

Industrial Injuries Scheme: Knees

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account her Department takes of the participation of miners in industrial action in 1984 and 1985 when reckoning service in order to determine the compensation payable for *(a)* miners' beat knee and *(b)* osteoarthritis of the knee. [292955]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* Periods of industrial action in 1984 and 1985 are not relevant in considering entitlement to PD A6 (Beat Knee).

For osteoarthritis of the knee, periods of industrial action exceeding three months in 1984 and 1985 do not qualify as time spent underground and therefore do not count towards the 10 year qualifying period.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the revenue guaranteed by the Jobseekers Direct telephone line in 2009-10. [291734]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions does not receive any revenue from the Jobseekers Direct telephone line.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of a work trial undertaken by a jobseeker's allowance claimant was in each of the last 24 months. [293588]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information that is available is in the following table:

Duration of completed work trials by jobseeker's allowance customers April 2009 to September 2009

	0-7 days duration	8-21 days duration	22+ days duration
April	587	350	52
May	974	471	74
June	847	390	61
July	1,234	515	94
August	867	364	89
September	995	444	99

Note:
The totals of the in-month figures are lower than the cumulative number of Work Trials completed. This is because the in-month figures are a snapshot taken on a particular date in the month, whereas the cumulative total figure reflects subsequent Work Trials that took place.
Source:
BOX Management Information

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants aged *(a)* 18 to 24 and *(b)* 25 to 59 years old in each region have completed a work trial in each of the last 24 months; and if she will make a statement. [293594]

Jim Knight: 11,239 work trials have been completed by jobseeker's allowance customers from April 2009 to September 2009. The totals of the in-month figures are considerably lower than the total number of work trials completed. This is because the in-month figures are a snapshot taken on a particular date in the month, whereas the total figure reflects subsequent work trials that took place.

The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information that is available is in the following table:

Work trial: jobseeker's allowance completers April 2009 to September 2009

Region	April	May	June	July	August	September
East Midlands	81	82	92	120	117	84
East of England	18	53	31	41	31	49
London	144	238	144	259	194	272
North East	86	151	93	125	73	111
North West	132	195	158	239	162	170
Office for Scotland	170	231	215	210	126	189
Office for Wales	46	53	54	81	58	66
South East	49	76	120	238	145	182
South West	26	56	87	117	59	67
West Midlands	61	99	122	156	156	150

Work trial: jobseeker's allowance completers April 2009 to September 2009

Region	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
Yorkshire and the Humber	144	285	182	257	199	198

Source:
BOXI Management Information

Jobseeker's Allowance: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what average length of time a claimant received jobseeker's allowance in North East Fife constituency in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [293976]

Jim Knight: The information is in the following tables:

Average length of time a claimant received jobseeker's allowance in North East Fife constituency in each of the last 12 months

	Median (number of weeks)
October 2008	7.0
November 2008	6.7
December 2008	6.3
January 2009	7.6
February 2009	10.4
March 2009	9.1
April 2009	8.2
May 2009	11.4
June 2009	10.9
July 2009	12.5
August 2009	9.1
September 2009	10.8

Source:
DWP WPLS 100 per cent. data

Average length of time a claimant received jobseeker's allowance in North East Fife constituency in each of the last five years

October to September each year (Inclusive)	*Median (number of weeks)*
2004-05	9.0
2005-06	10.9
2006-07	10.9
2007-08	8.9
2008-09	9.1

Notes:
1. Data are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk
2. Median, rather than arithmetic mean, is the preferred measure of "average" for skewed distributions such as duration of claim
Source:
DWP WPLS 100 per cent. data

Jobseeker's Allowance: Forest of Dean

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of jobseeker's allowance in the Forest of Dean constituency were aged between *(a)* 18 and 24, *(b)* 25 and 49 and *(c)* 50 and 64 on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many and what proportion of such claimants in each age group had been claiming the allowance for (i) under three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months, (iv) between one and two years, (v) between two and five years and (vi) five years and over. [295516]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency in Wales had been claiming the allowance for *(a)* up to three, *(b)* between three and six, *(c)* between six and 12 and *(d)* between 12 and 24 months in each of the last 18 months; and if she will make a statement. [294067]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency in Wales had been claiming the allowance for (a) up to three, (b) between three and six, (c) between six and 12 and (d) between 12 and 24 months in each of the last 18 months. (294067).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for people, aged 16 or over resident in each parliamentary constituency in Wales, by duration of the claim for each of the last 18 months. Table 2 shows the percentage of all claimants in each constituency by duration of the claim. As the information provided is extensive, a copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to provide a full response to the letter of 25 June 2009 from Mrs. Kathleen Law. [292349]

Jim Knight: Mrs. Law wrote directly to the Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society on 25 June 2009 concerning the scheme rules for the Local Government Pension Scheme. As this matter falls within the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government, Mrs. Law's letter was forwarded to that Department on 6 October 2009 to address the issues raised. I apologise to the hon. Member and to Mrs. Law for the delay in doing so.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter dated 1 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton concerning Ms Louise Bolotin. [294728]

Jim Knight: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 20 October 2009.

Mortgages: Income Support

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each London borough have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in each quarter since the scheme's inception; and if she will make a statement. [293050]

Jim Knight: This information is not available at this level of detail.

National Strategy for Mental Health and Employment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to publish the National Strategy for Mental Health and Employment; and if she will make a statement. [294501]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* We recognise the particular employment challenges faced by people who have mental health conditions and the importance of promoting good mental health and well-being across the whole population from early years and throughout working lives. We have been working across Government to develop the national mental health and employment strategy to address both of these issues. It is now nearing readiness, and will be published later this year.

New Deal Schemes: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 18 and 24 years old resident in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency have received assistance under the New Deal since 2003; and how many such people have moved into employment. [291701]

Jim Knight: 5,980 individuals had received assistance under the New Deal for Young People in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency up to May 2009, the latest date for which figures are available. There were 2,130 moves from the New Deal for Young People into work involving 1,880 individuals up to February 2009, which is the latest date for which figures are available. The figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and are available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/tabtool-nd.asp

Notes:

The Westminster Parliamentary Constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.

Latest New Deal joiners data is to May 2009.

Latest New Deal leavers data is to February 2009.

An individual may have more than one spell on NDYP.

'Individuals' is the number of people to have begun one or more spells on New Deal for Young People.

Source:

The Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency have participated in a New Deal scheme in each year since 2004. [291752]

Jim Knight: The table shows the number of starters on New Deals in the Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency since 2004. The information recorded in the following table shows the number of spells started with the New Deal schemes, rather then the number of individuals involved:

Year of starting	*Total starters (spells)*[1]
2004[2]	1,670
2005	1,480
2006	1,630
2007	1,770
2008	1,750
2009[3]	790

[1] Starters (spells) data are not available for New Deal 50 Plus or New Deal for Partners so Starters (individuals) data have been used instead for these schemes. This means that for these schemes only the most recent spell on that New Deal is recorded.

[2] Data for New Deal for Partners are available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999).

[3] Data are available to May 2009.

Notes:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

The Westminster Parliamentary Constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.

The year of starting is the calendar year of starting the New Deal.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, information available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/tabtool_nd.asp

New Deal Schemes: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people resident in Enfield North constituency found work through the New Deal in each year since 2001. [294193]

Jim Knight: The table shows the number of job starts by disabled people in the Enfield North constituency who have found work through the New Deal for Disabled People since 1998. Some individuals may have had more than one job start.

	Job starts
1998	[1]—
1999	[1]—
2000	[1]—
2001	[1]—
2002	10
2003	10
2004	20
2005	20
2006	30
2007	40
2008	20
2009	[1]—

[1] Nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Westminster Parliamentary Constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
3. Year of entering job is the calendar year that the job was gained.
4. Latest data are for February 2009.

Source:

The Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate. The figures are available at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any of her Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293477]

Jim Knight: None of the Department for Work and Pensions' non-departmental public bodies has sent representatives to attend political party conferences in 2009.

Pension Credit: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Mid Bedfordshire constituency receive pension credit. [295439]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

	Households in receipt of pension credit	*Number Individual beneficiaries of pension credit*
Mid-Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency	2,730	3,370

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

3. Number of beneficiaries—pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire are receiving pension credit. [294845]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

	Households in receipt of pension credit	*Individual beneficiaries of pension credit*
County of Derbyshire	34,670	42,990
North East Derbyshire parliamentary constituency	4,560	5,740

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

3. Number of beneficiaries—pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Pensioners: Fuel Poverty

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of people aged over *(a)* 65 and *(b)* 85 years in (i) Vale of York constituency, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) England who are living in fuel poverty. [294567]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

Fuel poverty is measured at household level rather than at individual level.

The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 4,800 fuel poor households in the Vale of York constituency and around 34,600 fuel poor households in North Yorkshire. Sub-regional fuel poverty figures are not available split by age.

More recent figures are available for England and the regions. These show that in 2007, there were around 333,000 fuel poor households in Yorkshire and the Humber and 2.8 million fuel poor households in England. The following table provides figures split by age.

Fuel poor households with:	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*England*
A member aged over 65 years	147,000	1,183,000
A member aged over 85 years	13,000	144,000

Pensioners: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many UK pensioners are domiciled overseas. [295493]

Angela Eagle: As at February 2009, there were 1,126,000 individuals who were paid a UK state pension outside the UK.

Notes:

1. Figures do not include Northern Ireland cases.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioners have been defined as living in absolute poverty in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* the UK in each year since 2005-06. [295092]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside region is not available.

The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. Absolute poverty is referred to as 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices.

Latest information for the north-east Government office region, is based on three year averages and is provided in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1. Number and percentage of pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median household income (uprated in line with prices), after housing costs, in the north-east Government office region, since 1997[1]

	Number	Percentage
1995-98	200,000	37
1996-99	200,000	33
1997-2000	100,000	30
1998-01	100,000	26
1999-02	100,000	20
2000-03	100,000	14
2001-04	0	10
2002-05	0	8
2003-06	0	7
2004-07	0	6
2005-08	0	7

[1] Information is in three year averages.

Note:

Family expenditure survey figures are for the United Kingdom, family resources survey figures are for Great Britain up to 1997-98, and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998-99 through 2001-02. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.

Latest information for the UK is provided in Table 2 as follows:

Table 2. Number and percentage of pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median household income (uprated in line with prices), after housing costs, in the UK since 1997

	Number	Percentage
1997-98	3,000,000	31
1998-99	2,900,000	29
1999-2000	2,500,000	25
2000-01	2,000,000	20
2001-02	1,500,000	14
2002-03	1,200,000	12
2003-04	1,100,000	10
2004-05	900,000	8
2005-06	800,000	8
2006-07	1,100,000	10
2007-08	1,000,000	9

Notes:

1. FES figures are for the United Kingdom, FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 1997-98, and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998-99 through 2001-02. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.
2. Small changes in estimates from year to year, particularly at the bottom of the income distribution, may not be significant in view of data uncertainties.
3. Due to rounding, the estimates of change in percentages of pensioners below low-income thresholds may not equal the difference between the total percentage of pensioners below thresholds for any pair of years shown.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government have taken in response to the recommendations in the Work and Pensions Select Committee report on Tackling Pensioner Poverty published in July 2009. [295440]

Angela Eagle: The Government have provided a response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee report on Tackling Pensioner Poverty. This was published by the Committee on 19 October 2009 and is available on the UK Parliament website at:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/work_and_pensions_committee/wappnl 9102009_.cfm

This Government have made significant progress in tackling pensioner poverty and this remains one of the Government's key priorities.

Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the percentage of women retiring in (a) 2010-11, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2014-15 who will be entitled to a full basic state pension; and if she will estimate for those who will not receive a full pension what their average percentage contribution record will have been in each such year; and if she will make a statement. [295458]

Angela Eagle: The 2007 Pensions Act reforms to basic state pension will mean that over 90 per cent. of women reaching state pension age from 2025 will qualify for a full basic state pension. In 2010-11 this proportion will rise to around 75 per cent. from around 45 per cent. today. Thereafter we expect the proportion to rise more gradually.

Where available the information requested is given in the following table. An estimate of the average percentage contribution record for women not entitled to a full basic state pension reaching state pension age in the years requested is not available; information relating to the expected level of entitlement has been provided instead.

Proportion of women reaching state pension age in the given year by their estimated level of entitlement to basic state pension

Percentage

Level of basic state pension entitlement	*2010-11*	*2012-13*	*2014-15*
100	Around 75	Around 80	Around 85
61 to 99	Around 15	Around 10	Under 10
60 and less	Around 10	Under 10	Under 10

Notes:

1. This table shows the proportion of people reaching SPA entitled to BSP at SPA, i.e. around 75 per cent. of females reaching SPA in 2010 are projected to be entitled to full BSP.
2. Women's entitlement is based on their own contributions and on their husband's contributions where the inheritance and substitution provisions apply for widows and divorced women.
3. Includes deferrers. Figures refer to percentage entitlement not to percentage of those in receipt of full BSP. Some people may be entitled but not be in receipt of a pension because they have chosen to defer their entitlement.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 per cent.

Source:

Projections from DWP Forecasting Division using the Government Actuary's Department's Retirement Pension Model; Great Britain only.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government is taking to address levels of child poverty. [294931]

Helen Goodman: Changes to tax, benefits and back to work help in the last decade have lifted 500,000 children out of relative poverty and halved absolute child poverty. Had we simply adjusted 1997 measures in line with prices around 2.1 million more children might live in poverty today. Measures in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 500,000 children out of poverty by 2010. Our Child Poverty Bill, now in Parliament, will commit Government to its eradication by 2020.

Social Security Benefits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adults under the age of 30 years are receiving benefits from her Department. [292012]

Jim Knight: The information is in the following table.

Total number (expressed in thousands) of adults under 30 claiming key DWP benefits by statistical group—as at February 2009

Statistical group	*Number*
Jobseeker	637.82
ESA and incapacity benefit	320.42
Lone parent	319.01
Carer	39.79
Others on income related benefit	45.92
Disabled	106.75
Bereaved	0.55
Total	1,470.26

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Councillors

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department provides on the eligibility of local authority councillors for *(a)* welfare benefits and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance. [291989]

Jim Knight: Detailed guidance on the rules of eligibility of local authority councillors for all Department for Work and Pensions administered social security benefits is provided in the Decision Makers Guide, a copy of which is held in the House of Commons Library and which is also available on the internet at

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/decision-makers-guide/

Detailed guidance on the rules of eligibility of local authority councillors for housing benefit and council tax benefit is provided in the Housing Benefit Guidance Manual, a copy of which is held in the House of Commons Library and which is also available on the internet at

www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/claims-processing/operational-manuals/housing-benefit-guidance/

State Retirement Pensions: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Mid Bedfordshire constituency were in receipt of a state pension in each of the last three years. [295406]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the following table.

	Number of recipients of state pension in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency
2007	16,490
2008	17,110
2009	17,600

Notes:

1. Figures are as at February for the years shown.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has been applied.
3. Constituency is for the Westminster Parliament.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Winter Fuel Payments: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire received winter fuel allowance in 2008-09. [294763]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09, the number of people who received winter fuel payments in Derbyshire was 175,520. The number of people who received winter fuel payments in the constituency of North East Derbyshire was 23,160.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

Winter Fuel Payments: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for winter fuel payments from residents of *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* the East of England were subject to inaccurate data handling by the Pension Service resulting in an extension of prioritising time in the winter of 2007-08. [295415]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Tuberculosis Screening: Migrants

11. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether migrants to the UK are tested for latent tuberculosis as part of the pre-entry screening programme for tuberculosis. [295135]

Mr. Woolas: Pre-entry screening tests are conducted in order to detect tuberculosis. Latent or inactive infections very rarely develop active tuberculosis. It is when the infection is active that tuberculosis is highly infectious.

There are presently no widely accepted scientific methods for detecting latent tuberculosis.

Proceeds of Crime: Victim Support

13. **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that the proceeds of crime recovered by police forces are allocated to fund support services for victims of crime. [295137]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Earlier this month my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced details of local projects to be funded under the new £4 million Community Cashback scheme which gave local communities a say on how recovered criminal assets are spent. 11 projects are being funded which are victim-related. In addition £11 million from confiscated proceeds was paid last year as compensation to victims.

National Prison Intelligence Unit

14. **Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of police forces to the work of the National Prison Intelligence Unit; and if he will make a statement. [295139]

Mr. Hanson: The National Prison Intelligence Unit (NPIU) was established in July 2007 to work with prison establishments to assess and counter the spread of violent extremism in prisons.

The effectiveness of measures to manage the risks of violent extremism in prisons are assessed on a regular basis.

Asylum Applications

16. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to process an application for asylum. [295141]

Mr. Woolas: In December we met our targets to conclude 60 per cent. of new cases within six months. That means not only that decisions were taken early but that in a significant proportion of refusals, removal from the UK was affected within six months of application.

In 1997 it took on average 22 months merely to reach an initial decision. We can only speculate how much longer than that it was taking to remove those who were refused at that time.

23. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the average time taken to process an application for asylum. [295148]

Mr. Woolas: In December we met our targets to conclude 60 per cent. of new cases within six months. That means not only that decisions were taken early but that in a significant proportion of refusals, removal from the UK was affected within six months of application.

In 1997 it took on average 22 months merely to reach an initial decision. We can only speculate how much longer than that it was taking to remove those who were refused at that time.

Immigration Policy

17. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account he takes of potential demographic changes in the UK in formulating his policy on immigration. [295142]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have mechanisms in place which are controlling the number of people coming to the UK to work and study through the points based system.

We are also consulting on a new points test for citizenship which will break the link between coming to the UK to work or study on a temporary basis and permanent settlement.

The figures published by the Office of National Statistics last week are projections and as they themselves say they do not take into account the reforms the Government have made to the immigration system. As the ONS points out, they are projections, based on previous years' trends, not forecasts.

Sharia Councils

21. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the effect of the operation of Sharia councils on the policing of community relations. [295146]

Mr. Hanson: Sharia law is not part of the law of the United Kingdom and the Government have no intention of making any change to that position. The police service engages with all members of the community, inclusive of all backgrounds, and works in partnership with other community safety agencies to address the policing priorities for local areas.

Migrants

22. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrants were given permission to remain in the UK in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* the last year for which figures are available. [295147]

Mr. Woolas: The number of persons granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom was:

(a) 61,730 in 1996; and

(b) 148,740 in 2008.

Human Trafficking

24. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to tackle human trafficking. [295149]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have a detailed Action Plan to tackle human trafficking, based on: prevention, enforcement prosecution and investigation, protection and support of adult victims and child trafficking.

We published the most recent update to the plan on 19 October.

Analgesics: Licensing

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences have been issued for the manufacture of analgesics from poppies in the UK in the last three years. [287383]

Mr. Alan Campbell: One company in the UK is licensed, on an annual basis, to manufacture drugs, used in the production of analgesics, from poppies.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licensed procedures were carried out on live animals for the purposes of testing household products in each year since 2002-03. [295462]

Meg Hillier: The number of scientific procedures started on living animals in Great Britain in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 for toxicology or other safety/efficacy evaluation in relation to substances used in the household, was, respectively 1,032, 234, 272, 21, 0, 1, 132.

The available information is published in table 9 (previously table 10) in the Department's annual publication Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain, copies of which are available from the Library of the House and from the Department's website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/scientific1.html

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation he has made of the cost-effectiveness of the application of anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs); and what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations on the effect of the use of ASBOs on community cohesion. [293884]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A Home Office research study carried out in 2004 showed that the cost of obtaining an Anti-social behaviour Order (ASBO) had significan[illegible] reduced since 2002 when this was previously assessed. Local agencies using Anti-social behaviour Orders (ASBOs) find them cost effective. The cost of not taking action is much higher.

Since ASBOs were introduced in 1998 there have been real changes in how people feel about anti-social behaviour: 17 per cent. of people felt that levels of ASB in their areas were high in 2008-09 compared to 21 per cent. in 2002-03. The tools and powers introduced by this Government over the last 11 years are working: the 2006 National Audit Office report on anti-social behaviour found that 93 per cent. of people desisted from ASB after the third intervention.

Burglary: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have obtained his Department's free burglary prevention advice pack since its launch in April 2009; and how many people have redeemed the discount vouchers included in that pack. [294213]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since the launch of the 'Secure Your Home' burglary prevention advice pack in April:

	Number
Sent directly to members of the public through the action line	10,304
To police forces in England and Wales to distribute to victims of burglary, their neighbours and others at most risk	329,088
Total	339,392

No data are available yet on how many discount vouchers have been redeemed. We are continuing to talk to the three DIY stores who provided the vouchers to obtain these figures.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many CCTV surveillance cameras funded by *(a)* public and *(b)* private sources there are in England and Wales. [294944]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is not held centrally. I refer to the reply given to the hon. Member on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 906W in which I indicated that between 1999 and 2003, £170 million of Home Office capital funding under the Crime Reduction Programme was made available to local authorities for investment in public space CCTV.

Around 680 CCTV town centre schemes were set up with this funding. Local authorities benefit from Area Based Grant that allows them to spend on CCTV and other areas as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their area.

Crime

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* alcohol-related crime and *(b)* drug-related crime were recorded in (i) England, (ii) London, (iii) Richmond-upon-Thames and (iv) Twickenham constituency in each of the last five years. [294917]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data requested on incidents are not collected centrally. However, the British Crime Survey provides figures for violent incidents where the victim believes the offender was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This information is provided in the following table:

Table 3.16: Violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 1995 to 2008-09, BCS

Percentages and numbers

											Statistically significant change	
	1995	*1997*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*1995 to 2008-09*	*2007-08 to 2008-09*
Proportion of all violent incidents[1]												
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:[2]												
Alcohol	41	43	48	45	51	49	45	46	46	47	*	—
Drugs	16	18	21	20	20	18	23	17	19	17	—	—

Table 3.16: Violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 1995 to 2008-09, BCS

Percentages and numbers

											Statistically significant change	
	1995	*1997*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*1995 to 2008-09*	*2007-08 to 2008-09*
Unweighted base	1,078	915	1,285	1,397	1,398	1,455	1,512	1,658	1,477	1,449	—	—
Number of violent incidents (Thousand)												
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:[2]												
Alcohol	1,656	1,457	1,244	1,177	1,299	1,105	1,023	1,087	971	973	•	—
Drugs	655	603	549	544	474	390	531	398	390	334	•	—
Unweighted base	16,348	14,947	32,824	36,479	37,931	45,120	47,729	47,138	46,903	46,220	—	—

[1] 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

[2] Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offenders were perceived to be under school age.

Note:

For an explanation of year-labels see 'Conventions Used in Figures and Tables' at the start of this volume.

Source:

Table 3.16 at the following link: http:/www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109chap3.xls

Crime Prevention: Internet

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent from the public purse on the policing of online crime in the most recent period for which figures are available. [294925]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government take online crime very seriously, and have provided funding for a number of specialist units to tackle this form of crime. The Government have provided over £6 million for the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) this year to protect children online. The Government have provided £3.5 million over three years for the Police Central e-Crime Unit (PCeU) to develop the police response to cybercrime within the UK. The Government also fund the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) e-crime unit, as part of the overall funding for the Agency.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff there were in his Department *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [292065]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of staff in the Home Department in 1997 has been published by the Cabinet Office (Tables 1A-1D) and is available on-line at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/css97_tcm6-2540.pdf

It should be noted that HM Prison Service is listed separately in this table but was part of the Home Office in 1997.

The Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey statistics for June 2009 are published by ONS and are available on-line. This survey confirms that there are currently 24,640 civil servants working for the Home Office and its Agencies.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Table6AllDepts.xls

Employment numbers over the period will have been affected by machinery of Government changes.

Direct Selling

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of the merits of developing a password identification system to protect vulnerable people from bogus doorstep callers. [291791]

Mr. Alan Campbell: All electricity, gas and water companies have a doorstep password scheme which enables people to set up their own passwords to verify the identity of doorstep callers. I would encourage people to sign up to such schemes which can offer access to other services for vulnerable customers on the supplier's Priority Service Register.

DNA: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the records held on the National DNA Database relate to DNA samples taken by police forces in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England and Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [294208]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Table 1 shows the number and proportion of all subject profiles retained on the national DNA Database (NDNAD) taken by police forces in Scotland, England and Wales (including British Transport police), and Northern Ireland as at 15 October 2009.

Table 2 shows the number and proportion of crime scene profiles retained on the NDNAD submitted by police forces in Scotland, England and Wales, and Northern Ireland as at 15 October 2009.

The number of subject profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. A proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded on more then one occasion (this may be because the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because of upgrading of profiles). It is currently estimated that 13.8 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. The replication rate of 13.8 per cent. should only be applied over the entire database however, as the replication rate for individual police forces varies considerably. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

Table 1

Force	*Number of subject profiles as at 15 October 2009*	*Number of individuals (estimated)*	*Proportion of total subject profiles held on the NDNAD (percentage)*
Scotland	271,693	—	4.6
England and Wales, inc. BTP	5,532,847	—	93.6
Northern Ireland	74,431	—	1.3
Other[1]	31,201	—	0.5
Total	5,910,172	5,094,568	100.0

[1] For example, Guernsey police, Ministry of Defence police etc.

Table 2

Force	*Number of crime scene profiles as at 15 October 2009*	*Proportion of crime scene profiles on the NDNAD (percentage)*
Scotland	13,153	3.6
England and Wales, inc. BTP	351,367	95.6
Northern Ireland	1,753	0.5
Other[1]	1,262	0.3
Total	367,535	100

[1] For example, Guernsey police, Ministry of Defence police etc.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent trends he has identified in the prevalence of dog fighting in the UK; and what steps his Department is taking to encourage police forces to allocate adequate resources towards reducing the incidence of dog fighting. [294918]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Our regular meetings with the RSPCA include reviewing dog fighting issues, which has long been an illegal activity. It is premature to speculate on the basis of the available evidence whether there have been any significant trends in the prevalence of dog fighting.

However, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 updated and strengthened the law on animal fighting. The Act created separate offences for animal fighting and significantly increased the maximum financial penalties available to the courts for such offences. Anyone found guilty of an offence related to animal fighting is liable to a maximum fine of £20,000 (previously £5,000), or six months' imprisonment, or both.

We have also recently published new guidance for the police on the enforcement of dangerous dogs law as well as provided the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) with £20,000 to assist in the training of police officers in the use of dangerous dogs law. The guidance and training includes the identification of illegal pit bull type dogs that are commonly used in dog fighting.

The Home Office are legislating (in the Policing and Crime Bill) to create a new power to prevent gang-related violence. This will enable police or local authorities to ask the courts to prohibit gang members from doing a number of things, including being in charge of an animal in a public place.

Drug Interventions Programme

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of people arrested and tested under the Drug Interventions Programme were positive for *(a)* heroin and *(b)* crack cocaine in each police force area in each year since 2003. [294178]

Alan Johnson: The drug testing of offenders for specified Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine/crack) in police custody came into operation from 2003 across 30 Basic Command Units (BCUs) as part of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP). Since that time the programme has expanded in a phased approach to 66 BCUs in 2004 and some 107 BCUs in 2005. DIP currently conducts drug testing in 109 BCUs across England and Wales.

Only offenders arrested or charged with a "trigger offence"—largely acquisitive crime related offences—are required to provide a sample to be tested for specified Class A drugs.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 show the number of positive tests under the Drug Interventions Programme for heroin only, cocaine only, and heroin and cocaine combined, for each financial year since data were available.

Table 1: Heroin only

Force	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	223	213	408	319	334
Bedfordshire	179	223	328	90	165
Cambridgeshire	164	157	277	196	244
City of London	—	—	124	84	102
Cleveland	596	516	1,073	988	1,031

Table 1: Heroin only

Force	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Devon and Cornwall	222	160	126	79	55
Greater Manchester	1,299	1,834	2,436	1,762	1,947
Gwent	—	39	111	87	180
Humberside	510	545	871	663	878
Lancashire	244	278	237	217	207
Leicestershire	212	382	641	529	808
Merseyside	480	361	521	705	1,175
Metropolitan police	1,393	1,932	2,935	2,326	2,763
North Wales	220	149	122	124	145
Northamptonshire	—	134	186	167	206
Northumbria	591	750	1,420	1,108	1,106
Nottinghamshire	558	953	1,617	989	852
South Wales	1	499	557	532	678
South Yorkshire	823	1,446	1,710	1,392	1,427
Staffordshire	171	127	191	183	58
Thames Valley	232	170	299	356	545
West Midlands	898	2,157	3,063	2,571	2,746
West Yorkshire	817	1,229	2,184	1,854	1,890

Table 2: Cocaine only (both powder cocaine and crack cocaine)

Force	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	310	327	610	756	920
Bedfordshire	156	333	667	429	371
Cambridgeshire	58	69	114	190	223
City of London	—	—	228	274	206
Cleveland	271	274	696	1,011	994
Devon and Cornwall	19	37	26	47	41
Greater Manchester	1,051	1,872	2,816	3,840	3,080
Gwent	—	58	64	90	86
Humberside	223	188	431	583	565
Lancashire	46	63	47	76	111
Leicestershire	127	143	372	408	569
Merseyside	584	516	1,401	2,781	3,396
Metropolitan police	3,327	3,700	8,469	10,084	9,450
North Wales	27	33	34	71	64
Northamptonshire	—	123	298	375	342
Northumbria	210	391	1,091	1,140	1,208
Nottinghamshire	355	647	1,350	1,377	1,215
South Wales	—	181	166	326	351
South Yorkshire	381	656	906	1,425	1,298
Staffordshire	48	39	51	66	25
Thames Valley	292	359	658	1,012	914
West Midlands	726	1,205	3,012	4,921	4,592
West Yorkshire	358	620	1,909	3,165	3,116

Table 3: Both heroin and cocaine (both powder cocaine and crack cocaine)

Force	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	609	697	1,335	1,402	1,194
Bedfordshire	276	421	960	527	347
Cambridgeshire	67	126	179	215	272
City of London	—	—	361	350	206
Cleveland	391	457	1,048	1,166	880
Devon and Cornwall	28	46	25	33	15
Greater Manchester	1,480	2,612	3,392	3,384	2,718
Gwent	—	64	129	157	102
Humberside	282	316	712	850	599
Lancashire	126	123	114	156	86
Leicestershire	140	242	463	479	537
Merseyside	1,483	1,213	2,114	2,223	2,265
Metropolitan police	3,528	4,844	8,801	8,733	7,372
North Wales	77	68	66	90	58
Northamptonshire	—	136	254	206	169
Northumbria	142	333	553	548	537
Nottinghamshire	566	1,374	2,342	1,720	1,188

Table 3: Both heroin and cocaine (both powder cocaine and crack cocaine)

Force	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
South Wales	—	318	235	383	339
South Yorkshire	833	1,455	2,182	1,954	1,499
Staffordshire	102	92	89	94	39
Thames Valley	528	518	919	1,152	973
West Midlands	1,235	2,816	5,268	5,677	4,647
West Yorkshire	747	1,298	3,272	3,637	2,959

Tables 4, 5 and 6 show the proportion of tests under DIP which were positive for heroin only, cocaine only, and heroin and cocaine combined, for each financial year since data were available.

Table 4: Heroin only

Force	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Percentage 2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	11	10	8	6	6
Bedfordshire	16	12	7	4	7
Cambridgeshire	20	14	13	10	11
City of London	—	—	7	5	6
Cleveland	23	21	16	13	13
Devon and Cornwall	32	23	22	13	17
Greater Manchester	13	11	10	7	8
Gwent	—	11	17	13	18
Humberside	17	20	15	11	13
Lancashire	26	27	23	20	18
Leicestershire	16	17	13	12	14
Merseyside	11	9	6	6	7
Metropolitan police	8	9	5	4	5
North Wales	31	28	24	16	21
Northamptonshire	—	14	8	6	8
Northumbria	21	18	14	12	10
Nottinghamshire	18	14	11	9	8
South Wales	100	21	24	18	19
South Yorkshire	20	18	14	12	11
Staffordshire	24	25	26	22	17
Thames Valley	11	8	6	6	7
West Midlands	14	17	10	7	8
West Yorkshire	18	17	10	7	7

Table 5: Cocaine only (both powder cocaine and crack cocaine)

Force	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Percentage 2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	15	16	12	15	17
Bedfordshire	14	18	14	17	15
Cambridgeshire	7	6	5	10	10
City of London	—	—	13	15	12
Cleveland	10	11	11	14	13
Devon and Cornwall	3	5	5	8	13
Greater Manchester	11	11	12	16	13
Gwent	—	16	10	13	9
Humberside	7	7	7	10	8
Lancashire	5	6	5	7	10
Leicestershire	10	6	8	9	10
Merseyside	13	13	17	23	21
Metropolitan police	20	17	16	19	18
North Wales	4	6	7	9	9
Northamptonshire	—	13	12	14	13
Northumbria	8	9	11	12	11
Nottinghamshire	11t	9	9	13	12
South Wales	0	8	7	11	10
South Yorkshire	9	8	8	12	10
Staffordshire	7	8	7	8	7
Thames Valley	14	17	14	16	12
West Midlands	11	9	10	14	13
West Yorkshire	8	9	9	13	12

Table 6: Both heroin and cocaine (both powder cocaine and crack cocaine)

Force	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Percentage 2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	30	33	26	28	22
Bedfordshire	24	23	21	21	14
Cambridgeshire	8	11	8	11	12
City of London	—	—	20	19	12
Cleveland	15	19	16	16	11
Devon and Cornwall	4	7	4	5	5
Greater Manchester	15	16	14	14	11
Gwent	—	18	20	23	10
Humberside	9	12	12	14	9
Lancashire	14	12	11	14	8
Leicestershire	11	11	10	11	9
Merseyside	33	31	25	18	14
Metropolitan police	21	23	16	16	14
North Wales	11	13	13	11	8
Northamptonshire	—	14	10	8	6
Northumbria	5	8	5	6	5
Nottinghamshire	18	20	16	16	11
South Wales	0	13	10	13	9
South Yorkshire	20	18	18	16	12
Staffordshire	14	18	12	12	11
Thames Valley	26	24	19	18	13
West Midlands	19	22	17	16	13
West Yorkshire	17	18	15	15	11

The question asks for numbers testing positive for crack cocaine. It is not possible to provide data on positive tests for crack cocaine only because the drug test conducted as part of DIP does not distinguish between powder cocaine and crack cocaine.

Between 2003 and 2005 the programme operated drug testing at the point of charge. From 2005 to the present time the programme has operated drug testing at the point of arrest, which has led to an increase in the number of individuals required to be tested.

Dual Nationality

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of British citizens who hold a passport of another country. [294257]

Alan Johnson: The Identity and Passport Service only holds data regarding British passport holders and the British passport application process in the UK. Therefore it is not possible to comment on all British citizens.

However, applicants who have naturalised or registered to become British citizens are required to send in their registration or naturalisation certificates with their applications, including any foreign passports held. These are returned after identity has been confirmed and no statistical record is kept of their country of origin or previous nationality.

Gun Sports: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether legislation is required to enable shooting events to take place at the 2012 Olympic Games. [295632]

Mr. Hanson: Pistol shooting events will take place using existing powers under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 to authorise competitors and officials to possess competition pistols for the duration of the games. British visitors permits issued under section 17 of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988 will enable competitors to take part in the other shooting disciplines.

Homicide

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides by each method of killing there were in each police force area in each year since 1997. [294180]

Alan Johnson: Available data from 1997-98 up to and including 2007-08 are shown in the tables placed in the House Library.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from what date applications for identity cards from the general population will be received. [294479]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 20 October 2009]*: As from 20 October 2009, the provisions in the Identity Cards Act 2006 were commenced so as to enable applications to be made for identity cards at a fee of £30. This has applied initially to people working in the Home Office, the Identity and Passport Service and elsewhere who are engaged on work relating to the issue of identity cards and later in 2009 will be extended to residents of Greater Manchester and to airside workers at Manchester and London City airports.

Immigration: Young People

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers immigration officers have to detain a British citizen on the sole grounds of age. [294590]

Mr. Woolas: Border force officers have no power to detain a British citizen, solely on the basis of age. British citizens are not subject to immigration control and so, do not require permission to enter or remain in the United Kingdom.

In cases involving minors and young people, the UK Border Agency is committed to ensuring their safety and welfare. Border force officers examine all such arriving passengers and will only allow them entry to the UK once they are satisfied that suitable arrangements are in place for their care.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has allocated to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to cover the operational costs of the ISA's first year; and if he will make a statement. [294074]

Meg Hillier: The ISA commenced operations in March 2008. The ISA budget for 2008-09 was £8.201 million.

Due to the phased implementation of the Vetting and Barring Scheme, the full registration requirements of the scheme will not come into force until July 2010, at which point the ISA will be fully operational.

National Identity Register

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications his Department has received for membership of the National Identity Service Expert Groups. [294422]

Alan Johnson: The Identity and Passport Service is setting up an experts group to provide independent views that will help to shape policy and the delivery of the National Identity Service through challenge and review, and to support the public panel. Individual applications were invited and learned and professional bodies have been asked to suggest candidates. The appointment process has not yet concluded.

National Identity Service Public Panels

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* running the National Identity Service public panels; [294421]

(2) how much was spent on *(a)* job advertisements and *(b)* publicity for the recruitment campaign to the National Identity Service public panels; [294480]

(3) how many applications for membership of the National Identity Service public panels have been received; [294481]

(4) what procedures will be used to select members of the National Identity Service public panels. [294482]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 20 October 2009]*: We are introducing a public panel, made up of people from different regions, to ensure that the views of the public are properly reflected in the way the National Identity Service (NIS) is introduced, and to help us develop an identity rights charter.

Members are unpaid volunteers, who may be reimbursed for reasonable out of pocket expenses.

The public panel will meet in six groups across the UK. The first two groups for the north and south of England have just been set up, following a campaign seeking people to join the panel.

For these two groups we received 113 applications. Applicants were asked their background: 12 categories were used such as employed, unemployed, in training, education, carer, and applicants were also asked about their knowledge or views of the NIS (making clear no view or knowledge was necessary for the role). The background categories were then used to randomly select members to proceed to an informal discussion with Identity and Passport Service (IPS) officials. Candidates for Chair had a short interview with an IPS official and an independent assessor.

Information for applicants was approved by Plain English and is available in Braille, large print format, Easyread format, and audio. This information will be used for all six groups and cost £6,600. Advertisement costs in local and regional newspapers for the north and south groups cost £8,800.

The estimated cost of information and publicity to set up all six regional groups is £60,000. Administrative support for the panel will be provided by IPS; the estimated cost of running the public panel in the current financial year is £16,000, which allows for reimbursement of expenses to panel members.

Official Residences

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 561W, on official residences, what the present proposed sale price of the former ministerial residence in South Eaton Place is; and whether there have been any changes to the proposed sale price since the property was first placed on the market. [294774]

Mr. Woolas: The guide price for this property is currently £4 million and has not changed.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 561W, on official residences, whether the advice of the selling agent on the preparation of a home condition report for the property in South Eaton Place was obtained in writing. [294775]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 160W. A copy of the disposal report for the property has previously been placed in the Library.

Opium

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sites are authorised to grow poppies for the production of opium in *(a)* England and *(b)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire; and what the total area of such sites is in each case. [287764]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Poppies are not grown in England for the production of opium but rather for the extraction of morphine. There are currently 38 sites growing poppies for such purposes in England with 19 in the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire. The total area under cultivation amounts to 4,422 acres with 2,021 acres being grown in the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire.

Police Custody: Health Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to police forces was of the attendance of doctors in police custody suites in the last 12 months. [293989]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office do not hold the costs incurred by the 43 police forces within England and Wales or the British Transport police for the attendance of doctors within their custody suites. It is an operational matter for the chief officer of each force to ensure that they have an appropriate level of health care provision in place.

Police: Manpower

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England in (i) 1997, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [295411]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the following table.

Data are not collected centrally at constituency level, but have been collected at basic command unit level from April 2002.

Police officer strength, by basic command unit, as at 31 March[1]

	1997[2]	*2006*[3]	*2007*[3]	*2008*	*2009*
BCU[4]					
Bedfordshire County	n/a	272	503	458	455
Dunstable[3]	n/a	255	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Luton	n/a	338	333	339	363
Central Services	n/a	359	368	410	426
Total Bedfordshire	1,084	1,225	1,204	1,207	1,244
East of England	9,727	11,043	11,083	11,028	11,3[illegible]
England	118,459	133,925	134,265	134,355	136,403

n/a = Not available

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items.

[2] Police strength by police basic command unit was collected centrally for the first time for the period beginning April 2002 and is therefore not available for 1997.

[3] Boundary changes for basic command units came into effect in April 2006, and as a result BCU breakdowns in 2006 differ from those in later years.

[4] Data at basic command unit level have been provided, since data are not collected centrally at constituency level.

[5] Not applicable

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on the number of prisoners from *(a)* EU A10 accession countries and *(b)* other EU member states held in Scottish prisons who have been recommended for deportation upon completion of their sentences. [294724]

Mr. Woolas: Issues relating to Scottish prisons and prisoners held within them are devolved and a matter for the Scottish Executive. The UK Border Agency works with the Scottish Executive to ensure the removal of foreign national criminals who meet the deportation criteria. In the first two quarters of 2009, the UK Border Agency removed a total of 2,560 foreign national offenders from the United Kingdom. We do not publish information relating to the nationalities of those we deport.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers of vehicles registered outside the UK were caught breaking a speed limit on camera for which a penalty was not paid in each year since 1997. [295010]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data requested are not available.

Information held by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice on convictions, fines and penalty notices for motoring offences does not include information on the registration status of drivers.

Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost to his Department of *(a)* implementing and *(b)* managing its pre-entry screening programme for tuberculosis has been since the programme's inception; [295001]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost to each applicant of undertaking the pre-entry screening programme for tuberculosis; [295002]

(3) whether he plans to extend the pre-screening programme for tuberculosis to migrants from more countries; [295003]

(4) what evaluation of the effectiveness of his Department's pre-entry screening programme for tuberculosis has been undertaken. [295004]

Mr. Woolas: The pre-entry TB screening pilot programme administered on behalf of the UK Border Agency by the International Organisation for Migration covers 15 countries, and complements the system of on-entry checks by port medical inspectors at major UK ports. The Home Office, with a contribution from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, met the start-up costs of $1,803,580 US. The scheme is now self-financing, applicants paying a fee of between $50 and $77 US (up to £50). The Department of Health and Health Protection Agency have undertaken preliminary assessments, and a final evaluation is now under way. Following this review decisions will be taken on the future of the programme.

Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to employers and employees in England and Wales seeking a basic disclosure check. [294256]

Alan Johnson: Guidance from the Criminal Records Bureau advises individuals seeking a basic disclosure check to contact Disclosure Scotland.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects ContactPoint to be fully operational. [295514]

Dawn Primarolo: ContactPoint is already operational. From late October, local authorities can start training ContactPoint users across England. The speed at which practitioner use of ContactPoint builds up over time will be agreed jointly with local authorities and national partners.

Access to ContactPoint is strictly limited to those who need it as part of their work, and who have been security vetted and trained. Our latest evidence-based analysis suggests that the number of users will be 390,000. The ultimate number of users will be determined by local authorities and national partners. Those decisions will be governed by regulations and guidance and, ultimately, by capacity and resources.

Children: Poverty

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of children in rural areas living in poverty in each year since 1997. [293210]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply:

Estimates of the number of children in rural areas living in poverty are derived from the Family Resources Survey produced by the Department for Work and Pensions. The survey is available on the Department's website at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2007_08/frs_2007_08_report.pdf

A copy is also in the Library.

Data on rurality are only available on the Family Resources Survey since 2004/05, so no information is available prior to 2004/05.

The information that is available is given in the tables.

Due to different definitions of rurality in Scotland compared to England and Wales, and the fact that no information is collected on the Family Resources Survey covering rurality in Northern Ireland, it has not been possible to present figures for the United Kingdom as a whole. This also means that the figures in table 4 are not comparable with figures presented in the other tables.

Table 1: Number of children in rural areas in England in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 2004/05 to 2007/08, before and after housing costs

Million

Period	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
2004/05	0.3	0.4
2005/06	0.3	0.4
2006/07	0.3	0.4
2007/08	0.3	0.5

Table 2: Number of children in rural areas in Wales in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 2004/05 to 2006/07 and 2005/06 to 2007/08, before and after housing costs

Million

Period	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
2004/05 to 2006/07	—	0.1
2005/06 to 2007/08	0.1	0.1

Table 3: Number of children in rural areas in England and Wales in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 2004/05 to 2007/08, before and after housing costs

Million

Period	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
2004/05	0.3	0.4
2005/06	0.3	0.5
2006/07	0.4	0.5
2007/08	0.3	0.5

Table 4: Number of children in rural areas in Scotland in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 2004/05 to 2006/07 and 2005/06 to 2007/08, before and after housing costs

Million

Period	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
2004/05 to 2006/07	—	—
2005/06 to 2007/08	—	—

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. For Wales and Scotland, three years of data have had to be combined due to small sample size.
4. A '—' in the table indicates that the number of children in low income households is less than 50,000 in the period.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.
7. Number of children in low income households have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

Departmental Publications

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of production of his Department's publication Schools of the Future: Inspirational Design for Kitchen and Dining Spaces was; and how much was spent on *(a)* research, *(b)* preparation and *(c)* distribution of the publication. [295667]

Mr. Coaker: The cost of producing Inspirational Design for Kitchen and Dining Spaces was around £108,000, broken down as follows:

Research, writing and graphics—£91,000

Preparation (printing, editing and professional photography)—£15,000

Distribution (including to every local authority)—approx £2,000

The publication, which was well received by the School Food Trust, has proved extremely valuable to local authorities, schools and designers particularly those involved in Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programme.

Education: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the intake of sixth form pupils to schools in Tamworth constituency was in each of the last 10 years; [293775]

(2) how many year 7 pupils entered secondary school in Tamworth in each of the last 10 years. [294096]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is shown in the table.

Data on pupils by national curriculum year group have been collected at pupil level since 2002. Comparable data are not available for earlier years.

Number of pupils[1] in national curriculum years 7 and 12 in state funded secondary schools[2], 2002 to 2009, Tamworth parliamentary constituency

	National curriculum year group	
	7	12
2002	1,110	350
2003	1,160	380
2004	1,080	390
2005	1,000	410
2006	990	380
2007	950	380
2008	890	410
2009	980	400

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[2] Includes CTCs and academies.

Note:

Pupil numbers rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of A-levels in *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* physics, *(c)* mathematics and *(d)* modern languages were awarded to pupils at (i) grammar schools, (ii) comprehensive schools, (iii) sixth form colleges and (iv) independent schools in the 2008-09 academic year. [294644]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The information required is given as follows and relates to passes at grades A-E:

Contribution of total GCE A-level passes by institution type in 2008/09

Percentage

	Comprehensive	*Selective*	*Modern*	*Other maintained*	*All maintained*	*Independent*	*Sixth Form Colleges*	*Other FE Colleges*	*All FE colleges*	*All schools and colleges (number)*
Chemistry	39.4	14.6	0.6	0.3	54.8	21.8	17.1	6.2	23.4	36,278
Physics	41.5	14.0	0.5	0.2	56.3	23.0	14.5	6.2	20.8	24,844
Mathematics	40.3	13.1	0.7	0.3	54.3	21.7	17.0	7.0	24.0	63,439
French	37.4	12.8	0.6	0.3	51.2	29.8	14.1	4.9	18.9	12,152
German	39.2	13.7	0.7	0.1	53.7	27.4	14.3	4.7	19.0	5,086
Spanish	30.2	12.0	0.4	0.4	42.9	34.0	16.8	6.3	23.1	6,056
Other Modern Languages	28.0	3.8	0.7	1.2	33.6	48.9	9.8	7.7	17.4	5,973

Notes:

1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2008).
2. 'Other modern languages' include 'Arabic', 'Bengali', 'Chinese', 'Dutch', 'Gujarati', 'Italian', 'Japanese', 'Panjabi', 'Persian', 'Polish', 'Portuguese', 'Russian', 'Turkish' and 'Urdu'.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables data (provisional).

GCSE

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils who had participated in gifted and talented programmes and who sat GCSEs in 2009 achieved *(a)* five or more GCSEs at grades A* - C, *(b)* five or more GCSEs at grades A* - C including English and mathematics, *(c)* five or more GCSEs at grades A* - C including English, mathematics and a modern foreign language and *(d)* eight or more GCSEs at grades A* - A. [294641]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* Information on GCSE attainment by pupil characteristics for the 2008-09 academic year is not yet available. The first results from this data will be published in December 2009.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils achieved eight or more GCSEs at grade A*-A *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in selective local education authorities, *(c)* in comprehensive education authorities and *(d)* in partially selective local education authorities in 2009. [294645]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The figures requested are in the table:

Local authority admission policy	*Percentage of pupils[1] achieving eight or more GCSEs at grade A* or A, 2009[2]*
Selective[3] local authorities	11.4
Comprehensive local authorities	5.7
Partially selective[4] local authorities	8.4

Local authority admission policy	*Percentage of pupils[1] achieving eight or more GCSEs at grade A* or A, 2009[2]*
National (maintained schools)	6.7

[1] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools.
[2] Data for 2009 are provisional and subject to change after school checking.
[3] Selective local authorities include Buckinghamshire, Kent, Medway, Slough, Southend, Torbay and Trafford.
[4] Partially selective local authorities include Barnet, Bexley, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bromley, Calderdale, City of Plymouth, Cumbria, Devon, Enfield, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kingston upon Thames, Kirklees, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Liverpool, North Yorkshire, Poole, Reading, Redbridge, Stoke on Trent, Sutton, Telford and the Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Wirral and Wolverhampton.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals did not sit GCSE examinations in five or more subjects in 2008. [286397]

Mr. Coaker: Of those pupils eligible to receive free school meals in maintained schools in England, 8,704 pupils were not entered for GCSE examinations in five or more subjects in 2008.

The figure includes all GCSE and equivalent qualifications.

This figure has been derived from the National Pupil Database. Data on pupils' eligibility for free school meals are collected in the Pupil-Level Annual School Census which only takes place in maintained schools.

GCSE: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children at schools in Enfield North constituency obtained nine or more GCSEs at grades A* to C or equivalent including English and mathematics in each year since 1997. [294193]

Mr. Coaker: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Primary Education: Finance

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* Bedfordshire have participated in the Primary Capital Programme in 2009. [295365]

Mr. Coaker: Funding for the national roll out of the Primary Capital Programme commenced in April 2009. It follows that very few of the projects to be funded wholly or partly through the programme will have actually started on site at this stage.

I am pleased to confirm, however, that the strategic plan submitted through the former Bedfordshire Council's Primary Strategy for Change has resulted in additional funding of £9.3 million being approved to support local delivery over the two year period 2009-11 duly confirmed.

Decisions about the prioritisation of individual projects are rightly matters for local determination. The programme aims to support local authorities in renewing around half of all primary schools by 2023. More detailed information about the work planned can be obtained from the local authority.

Pupil Exclusions

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children had been permanently excluded from *(a)* schools and *(b)* Catholic schools on the latest date for which figures are available; [293957]

(2) what proportion of pupils at *(a)* schools and *(b)* Catholic schools were permanently excluded in the last 12 months. [293958]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number and percentage of pupil enrolments permanently excluded from school in 2007/08 are shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1], number and percentage of pupil enrolments[2] permanently excluded by denomination of school[3], England 2007/08 (estimates)[4]

	Number of pupil enrolments permanently excluded[2]	*Percentage of pupils permanently excluded[5]*
Catholic schools[3]	630	0.09
Other schools[3]	7,500	0.11
Total for all schools	8,130	0.11

[1] Includes middle schools, city technology colleges, academies, and maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[2] Pupils may be counted more than once if they are permanently excluded from more than one school during the year.
[3] Denomination of school as Roman Catholic or otherwise as it appears in Edubase. Multi-denominational schools have been categorised as other.
[4] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.
[5] The number of pupil enrolments permanently excluded as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2008, in each denomination category.
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census and Edubase.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools in which over *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 per cent. of pupils were persistent absentees had less than 30 per cent. of pupils gain five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C in each year since 2005. [282726]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table:

Percentage of persistent absence[1] in school

		Percentage			
		>5	*>10*	*>15*	*>20*
2007	*Maintained[2] schools*	2,587	893	329	183
	with fewer than 29.5 per cent. achieving five or more GCSEs at A*-C, or the equivalent, including English and maths	1,194	696	313	181
2008	*Maintained[2] schools*	2,305	634	263	143
	with fewer than 29.5 per cent. achieving five or more GCSEs at A*-C, or the equivalent, including English and maths	1,011	519	254	142

[1] Persistent absence is defined as missing more than 63 sessions.
[2] Including city technology colleges, academies and maintained special schools—all schools in the table have at least one pupil at the end of Key Stage 4.
Notes:
1. Special schools are included in the figures.
2. Data matching persistent absence to school attainment are only available from 2007.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average absence rate from school for infant school pupils was in the last year for which figures were available. [294327]

Mr. Coaker: The absence rate for primary school pupils aged five or six is shown in the table. Infant pupils attend a variety of school types. For consistency, data have been provided for all infant pupils regardless of the category of school they attend.

Absence data are collected for pupils aged five to 15 at the start of the academic year, excluding boarders.

Primary schools[1], absence rate[2] for infant pupils[3, 4], 2007/08, England

	Average absence rate[2]
Infant pupils[3]	5.74
Primary school pupils[4]	5.26

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Number of sessions due to overall absence as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

[3] Pupils attending primary schools, aged five or six as at 31 August 2007, who will become six or seven during the academic year; excluding boarders.

[4] Pupils attending primary schools, aged five to 15 as at 31 August 2007, excluding boarders.

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Ethnic Groups

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils at *(a)* schools and *(b)* Catholic schools are from ethnic minority backgrounds. [293959]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special[3] schools: ethnicity[4] of Roman Catholic[5] schools compared to all schools, as at January 2009, England

	All schools		*Roman Catholic schools*	
	Number	*Percentage[6]*	*Number*	*Percentage[6]*
White	5,304,890	80.6	510,540	80.0
White British	5,030,880	76.4	459,920	72.1
Irish	22,860	0.3	12,040	1.9
Traveller of Irish Heritage	3,940	0.1	940	0.1
Gypsy/Roma	9,590	0.1	480	0.1
Any other White background	237,620	3.6	37,170	5.8
Mixed	242,850	3.7	29,750	4.7
White and Black Caribbean	79,530	1.2	8,680	1.4
White and Black African	25,830	0.4	3,640	0.6
White and Asian	50,790	0.8	5,770	0.9
Any other Mixed background	86,700	1.3	11,660	1.8
Asian	557,130	8.5	29,210	4.6
Indian	162,460	2.5	11,130	1.7
Pakistani	223,400	3.4	6,630	1.0
Bangladeshi	91,410	1.4	1,480	0.2
Any other Asian background	79,860	1.2	9,970	1.6
Black	301,950	4.6	50,390	7.9
Caribbean	91,650	1.4	12,200	1.9
African	176,000	2.7	32,360	5.1
Any other Black background	34,300	0.5	5,830	0.9
Chinese	24,680	0.4	1,950	0.3
Any other ethnic group	82,670	1.3	9,990	1.6
Classified[4]	6,514,160	98.9	631,830	99.1
Unclassified[7]	70,020	1.1	6,050	0.9
Minority Ethnic Pupils[8]	1,483,290	22.5	171,910	27.0
All pupils[9]	6,584,180	100.0	637,880	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Pupils of compulsory school age and above were classified according to ethnic group. Excludes dually registered pupils.

[5] Denomination of school as Roman Catholic as it appears in Edubase.

[6] The number of pupils by ethnic group expressed as a percentage of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.

[7] Information refused or not obtained.

[8] Includes all pupils classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British.

[9] All pupils of compulsory school age and above.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census and Edubase.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding per pupil in each local education authority area was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [295242]

Mr. Coaker: The per pupil revenue funding figures, and the total capital figures, for England and each local authority in 2008-09 are set out in the following table. Revenue figures are in cash terms. Capital figures represent amounts allocated in the year:

	2008-09 Revenue	*2008-09 Capital*
LA name	*Per pupil (£)*	*Total (£000)*
England	4,690	5,224,722
Barking and Dagenham	5,270	211,311
Barnet	5,200	26,296
Barnsley	4,480	9,889
Bath and North East Somerset	4,430	7,744
Bedfordshire	4,410	31,316
Bexley	4,730	10,638
Birmingham	5,240	64,548
Blackburn with Darwen	5,040	93,612
Blackpool	4,620	6,615
Bolton	4,600	14,311

LA name	2008-09 Revenue Per pupil (£)	2008-09 Capital Total (£000)
Bournemouth	4,300	6,587
Bracknell Forest	4,500	6,244
Bradford	4,870	34,838
Brent	5,700	16,114
Brighton and Hove	4,660	8,745
Bristol, City of	5,050	153,697
Bromley	4,590	13,370
Buckinghamshire	4,510	19,873
Bury	4,430	8,476
Calderdale	4,570	12,058
Cambridgeshire	4,280	116,568
Camden	6,910	9,354
Cheshire	4,430	32,581
City of London	—	145
Cornwall	4,340	33,239
Coventry	4,790	220,483
Croydon	4,910	15,469
Cumbria	4,430	30,462
Darlington	4,550	11,860
Derby	4,660	12,847
Derbyshire	4,450	36,368
Devon	4,280	38,900
Doncaster	4,630	14,819
Dorset	4,350	19,790
Dudley	4,510	13,613
Durham	4,730	26,778
Ealing	5,620	21,724
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,270	15,680
East Sussex	4,560	21,222
Enfield	5,100	16,699
Essex	4,450	109,435
Gateshead	4,740	8,453
Gloucestershire	4,370	36,103
Greenwich	6,260	200,496
Hackney	7,250	15,353
Halton	4,960	6,183
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,490	6,318
Hampshire	4,320	65,878
Haringey	5,940	13,966
Harrow	5,170	11,210
Hartlepool	4,830	4,904
Havering	4,670	10,351
Herefordshire	4,320	8,843
Hertfordshire	4,500	202,625
Hillingdon	4,990	14,449
Hounslow	5,380	16,949
Isle of Wight	4,660	6,592
Isles of Scilly	—	239
Islington	6,660	9,271
Kensington and Chelsea	6,530	4,229
Kent	4,520	332,296
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	4,870	10,536
Kingston upon Thames	4,850	7,671
Kirklees	4,650	21,919
Knowsley	5,080	14,473
Lambeth	6,780	14,069
Lancashire	4,520	62,357
Leeds	4,620	32,602
Leicester	4,860	14,846
Leicestershire	4,150	35,527
Lewisham	6,330	23,757
Lincolnshire	4,410	36,122
Liverpool	5,140	20,751
Luton	4,960	13,999
Manchester	5,440	287,467
Medway	4,600	14,402
Merton	5,010	10,463
Middlesbrough	4,960	7,250
Milton Keynes	4,710	28,661
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,840	11,612
Newham	5,970	24,673
Norfolk	4,410	42,337
North East Lincolnshire	4,850	8,100
North Lincolnshire	4,420	6,882
North Somerset	4,310	8,318
North Tyneside	4,520	15,301
North Yorkshire	4,440	34,250
Northamptonshire	4,360	39,431
Northumberland	4,400	17,818
Nottingham	5,330	94,860
Nottinghamshire	4,390	35,490
Oldham	4,820	130,703
Oxfordshire	4,410	30,597
Peterborough	4,790	9,929
Plymouth	4,540	23,664
Poole	4,250	5,580
Portsmouth	4,650	7,631
Reading	4,870	8,565
Redbridge	4,820	15,905
Redcar and Cleveland	4,750	6,432
Richmond upon Thames	4,750	6,873
Rochdale	4,900	133,591
Rotherham	4,730	19,043
Rutland	4,400	1,870
Salford	5,050	10,539
Sandwell	4,890	14,129
Sefton	4,590	13,460
Sheffield	4,650	262,065
Shropshire	4,240	14,051
Slough	5,130	7,255
Solihull	4,270	16,795
Somerset	4,350	41,610
South Gloucestershire	4,150	15,798
South Tyneside	4,910	8,127
Southampton	4,750	8,735
Southend-on-Sea	4,620	11,710
Southwark	6,650	12,732
St. Helens	4,640	8,061
Staffordshire	4,290	38,585
Stockport	4,410	13,085
Stockton-on-Tees	4,620	10,311
Stoke-on-Trent	4,800	9,295
Suffolk	4,320	37,371
Sunderland	4,680	13,213
Surrey	4,450	55,919
Sutton	4,810	8,788

LA name	*2008-09 Revenue Per pupil (£)*	*2008-09 Capital Total (£000)*
Swindon	4,310	17,789
Tameside	4,560	71,313
Telford and Wrekin	4,510	233,576
Thurrock	4,700	5,878
Torbay	4,460	13,942
Tower Hamlets	7,350	16,385
Trafford	4,400	10,880
Wakefield	4,550	14,960
Walsall	4,700	19,531
Waltham Forest	5,330	19,374
Wandsworth	5,980	12,763
Warrington	4,320	9,205
Warwickshire	4,320	26,221
West Berkshire	4,570	8,734
West Sussex	4,370	34,129
Westminster	6,260	6,164
Wigan	4,510	21,023
Wiltshire	4,250	26,285
Windsor and Maidenhead	4,630	7,603
Wirral	4,630	14,566
Wokingham	4,360	8,845
Wolverhampton	4,940	12,900
Worcestershire	4,300	28,893
York	4,360	6,776

Notes:

Revenue Figures:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council: it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.

2. Price Base: Cash

3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19.

4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Capital Figures

1. These figures are provided on an allocations basis. They include devolved, targeted and strategic programmes, funded by grant, supported borrowing and PFI.

2. Where figures for some authorities appear particularly large, this will normally reflect a Building Schools for the Future allocation where expenditure will take place over a number of succeeding years.

Schools: Asbestos

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been found to contain hazardous asbestos in the last 12 months; in how many of those schools all asbestos has been removed; at what cost; and what assessment has been made of the health of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* pupils attending schools where asbestos has been found. [291622]

Mr. Coaker: During any major refurbishment project, the Department expects those responsible to remove hazardous asbestos and asbestos likely to be disturbed. Outside major projects, periodic asbestos surveys identify Asbestos Containing Materials that are likely to deteriorate and we expect them to be removed or encapsulated.

There is no requirement for routine reports of the condition of asbestos containing materials; for each public building there is an individual with specific statutory duties related to asbestos but routine reporting is not one of those duties. So, data are not available on the number of schools found to contain hazardous asbestos in the last 12 months.

Earlier this year, the Prime Minister gave a commitment to find out more about local authority management of asbestos.

In September 2008 DCSF and HSE sought to determine, by questionnaire, how asbestos is being managed in system-built schools.

Initial evaluation of the responses is complete. It has highlighted the need for further investigation and follow-up action. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) officials will discuss with the Department in November how to take this forward.

Schools: Buildings

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will review the adequacy of the provisions of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999, with particular reference to statutory provision for *(a)* water and *(b)* toilets. [295469]

Mr. Coaker: The officials and colleagues from Partnerships for Schools are arranging to meet the Paediatric Continence Forum to discuss the adequacy of water and toilet provision in schools. This will include considering statutory methods that might be appropriate.

This issue has already been addressed in the Building Schools for the Future programme with the 2007 publication of Toilets in Schools, a DCSF guidance note to encourage the use of standard layouts and designs to make toilets more attractive, cleaner and safer for pupils to use.

Schools: Cricket

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of state schools are linked to a cricket club; [292568]

(2) what percentage of state schools include organised games of cricket in the sports curriculum. [292569]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2008/09 School Sport Survey, published on 14 October, shows that 58 per cent. of schools are linked to a local cricket club and 89 per cent. of schools include cricket as part of the curriculum.

A copy of the 2008/09 School Sport Survey will be placed in the Libraries.

Schools: Heating

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools use heat generated by *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* ground source heat pumps. [292013]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not hold information on the numbers of schools that use heat generated by *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* ground source heat pumps. Investment in measures of this nature would typically be funded from budgets delegated to schools and local authorities. This information may be held at a local authority.

The Department receives information on planned installations of renewable energy systems for new school projects that are being delivered within Building Schools for the Future and the Academies programme. We have received details for 71 new school projects since January 2008. Of these, 39 are planning to install systems that generate heat from solar panels, and eight plan to install ground source heat pumps for heat generation.

Schools: Standards

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* schools and *(b)* Catholic schools Ofsted judged to be outstanding or good in the latest period for which figures are available. [293945]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The latest figures published by Ofsted about the inspection outcomes of maintained schools refer to inspections carried out in the autumn and spring terms of 2008/09. During that period, 19% of all schools inspected were judged to be outstanding and 50% were judged to be good in terms of their overall effectiveness. During the same period, 23% of Roman Catholic schools inspected were judged to be outstanding and 56% were judged to be good. Table A summarises the outcomes for all schools inspected during this period by phase of education, and Table B summarises the outcomes for Roman Catholic schools.

Figures covering all inspections which took place during the full academic year 2008/09 will be published in November 2009 alongside the Annual Report.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: overall effectiveness in schools inspected in the autumn and spring terms of academic year 2008/09

		Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected			
Phase of education	*Number of inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
Nursery	87	59	40	1	0
Primary	3,562	16	52	29	3
Secondary	762	23	41	29	7
Special	230	40	45	12	3
Pupil referral unit	125	19	53	22	6
Total	—	19	50	28	4

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Figures include one special school which was inspected twice during this period and found to be inadequate on both occasions.

Table B: overall effectiveness in Roman Catholic schools inspected in the autumn and spring terms of academic year 2008/09

		Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected			
Phase of education	*Number of inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
Primary	389	21	58	20	2
Secondary	85	31	48	16	5
Special	1	100	0	0	0
Total	—	23	56	19	2

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Roman Catholic schools excludes those of mixed denomination.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools had advanced skills teacher status on the most recent date for which figures are available. [295668]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is published in table 5 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)' published on 29 September 2009. The table is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsqatewav/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables1to18_Vals.xls

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers took a *(a)* Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Arts degree and *(b)* a Post-graduate Certificate of Education with a language specialism in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [295773]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is given in the following table.

Number of new entrants to initial teacher training (ITT) courses specialising in modern foreign languages, years 2006/07 to 2008/09: coverage England

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Primary			
Undergraduate	110	120	50
Postgraduate	600	590	510
Secondary			
Undergraduate	10	20	30
Postgraduate	1,490	1,330	1,290
Primary and secondary			
Undergraduate	120	140	80
Postgraduate	2,090	1,930	1,800

Notes:
1. Recruitment figures for 2008/09 were provisional and are subject to change. They include 100 forecast trainees who are expected to enter ITT during the academic year.
2. Includes Universities and other Higher Education Institutions, SCITT and Open University but excludes employment based routes.
3. Figures for secondary include Key Stage 2/3.
4. Figures include trainees who are re-sitting all or part of their ITT programme.
5. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals as shown may not equal the sum of component parts.

Source:
TDA's ITT Trainee Numbers Census

The downward trend in entrants to ITT courses specialising in Modern Foreign Languages reflects the target number of places set for recruitment and the low level of teacher vacancies in the subject.

Travelling People: Schools

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether local authority performance targets on Traveller pupils are part of his Department's national indicator set. [294898]

Mr. Coaker: Currently local authorities have to set performance targets for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils at key stages 2 and 4 where there is a cohort of 30 or more pupils. Recent changes to the target setting regulations mean that from 2010, performance targets will need to be set where there is a cohort of three or more Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils.

Vocational Guidance: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been provided to each local authority to provide careers services in accordance with sections 68 and 69 of the Education and Skills Act 2008. [295587]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Education and Skills Act 2008 transfers to local authorities the statutory responsibility for the delivery of Connexions services, including assessments for young people with learning difficulties. Sections 68 and 69 of the Act require local authorities to provide services, as directed by the Secretary of State, to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of young people in education or training.

Responsibility and funding for Connexions services, including information, advice and guidance and careers services, transferred to local authorities on 1 April 2008. The funding is paid via the area based grant arrangements and is not ring fenced. We do not collect information on what precisely the Connexions funding is spent on.

Connexions grant funding is allocated using a national funding formula which is based on the 13-19 population, educational attainment, NEET figures and deprivation indicators. The funding formula is intended to share out the national Connexions budget between the 152 local authorities in a way that is fair, objective and transparent, so that they can deliver a high quality service to all young people. It is intended that the formula should broadly reflect the needs of an area and that it is then for local authorities to decide how best to use their funding to deliver Connexions services locally.

We only have information on the funding provided for the provision of Connexions services as a whole which includes the provision of careers services. Some local authorities, reflecting the needs of their area, may commission additional services from a number of other agencies. The amount of funding allocated to each local authority for the provision of Connexions services since 2008 is as follows:

Connexions grant allocations 2008 to 2011

Local authority	*2008-09*	*200-10*	*2010-11*
Barking and Dagenham	2,135,835	2,240,946	2,307,413
Barnet	2,859,769	2,714,745	2,620,723
Barnsley	2,205,107	2,313,628	2,543,299
Bath and North East Somerset	1,403,928	1,370,345	1,363,043
Bedfordshire[1]	3,505,688	—	—
Bedford Borough	—	1,465,059	1,462,201
Central Bedfordshire	—	1,965,163	1,976,288
Bexley	2,258,109	2,224,658	2,241,851
Birmingham	11,598,496	11,054,022	11,041,218
Blackburn with Darwen	1,897,017	1,944,424	1,942,646
Blackpool	1,847,217	1,837,938	1,827,692
Bolton	2,951,714	3,096,977	3,126,891
Bournemouth	1,322,610	1,387,700	1,417,809
Bracknell Forest	1,248,546	1,185,230	1,065,998
Bradford	4,999,312	5,231,922	5,261,420
Brent	2,601,070	2,483,963	2,469,856
Brighton and Hove	2,180,983	2,189,813	2,167,918
Bristol	3,576,383	3,484,002	3,447,371
Bromley	2,499,349	2,403,908	2,408,810
Buckinghamshire	3,784,634	3,592,708	3,455,960
Bury	1,656,126	1,737,629	1,887,805
Calderdale	2,073,434	2,046,741	2,057,580

Connexions grant allocations 2008 to 2011

Local authority	*2008-09*	*200-10*	*2010-11*
Cambridgeshire	4,536,860	4,306,787	4,066,514
Camden	1,925,970	2,020,753	2,079,846
Cheshire[1]	5,350,028	—	—
Cheshire East	—	2,490,744	2,504,255
Cheshire West and Chester	—	2,738,198	2,739,897
City of London	217,476	228,178	250,829
Cornwall	3,965,389	4,123,537	4,120,511
Coventry	3,342,950	3,173,422	3,158,928
Croydon	3,205,064	3,209,614	3,211,589
Cumbria	4,442,949	4,217,638	4,093,511
Darlington	995,950	1,044,964	1,148,696
Derby (City)	2,364,299	2,453,271	2,458,612
Derbyshire	6,058,264	5,906,203	5,955,901
Devon	5,387,090	5,220,313	5,227,787
Doncaster	3,134,965	3,289,247	3,347,957
Dorset	2,822,958	2,961,884	3,020,302
Dudley	3,031,490	3,029,173	3,023,431
Durham	4,956,762	4,999,034	5,003,606
Ealing	2,514,411	2,573,209	2,588,967
East Riding of Yorks	2,395,442	2,513,329	2,539,149
East Sussex	3,996,083	4,127,521	4,133,868
Enfield	3,048,524	2,942,302	2,946,685
Essex	10,837,768	10,731,707	10,788,610
Gateshead	1,910,170	2,004,175	2,118,030
Gloucestershire	4,846,892	4,601,097	4,288,908
Greenwich	2,868,202	3,009,355	3,168,221
Hackney	2,609,071	2,737,472	2,888,913
Halton	1,603,374	1,682,281	1,718,540
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,475,346	1,547,953	1,592,527
Hampshire	9,515,254	9,399,152	9,393,133
Haringey	2,476,065	2,593,898	2,588,100
Harrow	1,879,255	1,874,784	1,846,840
Hartlepool	1,113,733	1,168,543	1,284,543
Havering	2,255,523	2,141,141	2,087,035
Herefordshire	1,548,216	1,469,703	1,394,246
Hertfordshire	8,576,130	8,141,218	8,184,407
Hillingdon	2,863,097	2,717,904	2,588,297
Hounslow	2,295,067	2,289,625	2,275,528
Hull	3,220,085	3,376,466	3,363,553
Isle of Wight	1,304,907	1,332,546	1,332,634
Isles of Scilly	25,000	25,000	25,000
Islington	2,092,847	2,195,843	2,413,822
Kensington and Chelsea	1,793,254	1,702,315	1,531,065
Kent	11,537,262	11,796,670	11,836,047
Kingston Upon Thames	1,187,361	1,146,488	1,127,058
Kirklees	3,752,250	3,936,910	3,960,221
Knowsley	1,996,839	2,095,110	2,303,089
Lambeth	2,439,164	2,527,658	2,540,147
Lancashire	9,332,495	9,692,878	9,695,711
Leeds	6,985,015	6,630,791	6,529,176
Leicester (City)	4,361,000	4,139,845	3,723,384
Leicestershire	4,231,167	4,439,395	4,471,790
Lewisham	2,859,414	2,786,385	2,787,305
Lincolnshire	5,542,404	5,261,338	5,264,350
Liverpool	5,619,996	5,366,083	5,333,680
Luton	2,034,424	2,134,545	2,153,194
Manchester	5,480,855	5,202,910	5,121,423
Medway	2,333,652	2,448,498	2,550,283
Merton	1,628,829	1,546,228	1,473,135
Middlesbrough	1,883,863	1,976,574	2,133,493
Milton Keynes	2,326,563	2,240,110	2,246,998
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,041,855	3,000,199	2,973,710
Newham	3,395,303	3,471,609	[illegible]472,979
Norfolk	6,969,810	6,616,357	6,389,342
North East Lincolnshire	1,845,876	1,936,718	2,070,292
North Lincolnshire	1,558,786	1,635,499	1,721,465
North Somerset	1,466,477	1,538,647	1,558,615
North Tyneside	1,881,708	1,974,312	1,986,382
North Yorkshire	4,474,612	4,247,696	4,216,686
Northamptonshire	6,173,383	5,860,319	5,648,861
Northumberland	3,190,975	3,029,154	2,813,002
Nottingham (City)	3,319,723	3,162,497	3,128,087
Nottinghamshire	6,639,216	6,302,528	6,257,359
Oldham	2,486,158	2,608,510	2,685,121
Oxfordshire	4,913,800	4,669,339	4,657,858
Peterborough	1,788,971	1,877,012	1,962,997
Plymouth	2,353,042	2,468,127	2,449,832
Poole	1,183,921	1,189,791	1,173,789
Portsmouth	1,845,179	1,928,417	1,920,840
Reading	1,216,312	1,276,171	1,321,260
Redbridge	2,181,020	2,167,227	2,172,357
Redcar and Cleveland	1,712,832	1,797,126	1,825,497
Richmond Upon Thames	1,323,865	1,256,730	1,163,227
Rochdale	2,264,862	2,376,323	2,506,746
Rotherham	2,749,965	2,885,300	3,101,497
Rutland	269,331	282,585	310,637
Salford	2,504,047	2,581,857	2,576,179
Sandwell	3,396,071	3,558,512	3,577,380
Sefton	2,883,000	2,804,102	2,797,167
Sheffield	4,801,931	4,955,465	4,957,247
Shropshire	2,328,714	2,216,296	2,202,159
Slough	1,206,360	1,265,729	1,285,588
Solihull	2,127,535	2,089,791	2,093,279
Somerset	4,302,492	4,084,304	3,960,444
South Gloucestershire	2,127,551	2,019,659	2,011,391
South Tyneside	1,820,008	1,873,976	1,875,510
Southampton	2,010,141	2,109,067	2,185,394
Southend on Sea	1,500,644	1,574,496	1,636,062
Southwark	3,179,484	3,161,844	3,178,853
St Helens	2,079,205	2,090,147	2,089,913
Staffordshire	6,737,879	6,744,172	6,737,109
Stockport	2,390,783	2,508,441	2,520,061
Stockton on Tees	1,932,205	2,027,295	2,065,879
Stoke on Trent	2,761,049	2,896,929	3,080,460
Suffolk	5,776,012	5,508,235	5,531,601
Sunderland	3,340,512	3,333,282	3,336,564
Surrey	8,628,887	8,191,299	7,367,269
Sutton	1,602,425	1,654,444	1,660,234

Connexions grant allocations 2008 to 2011

Local authority	*2008-09*	*200-10*	*2010-11*
Swindon	1,844,348	1,846,214	1,847,666
Tameside	2,375,322	2,492,219	2,499,106
Telford and Wrekin	1,773,089	1,798,599	1,803,889
Thurrock	*1,453,580*	*1,525,116*	*1,657,326*
Torbay	1,148,857	1,205,396	1,300,057
Tower Hamlets	2,716,974	2,850,684	3,133,669
Trafford	1,819,698	1,886,908	1,892,281
Wakefield	3,277,829	3,386,663	3,399,169
Walsall	2,919,640	3,061,227	3,068,488
Waltham Forest	2,434,491	2,457,014	2,459,481
Wandsworth	2,166,382	2,168,526	2,153,211
Warrington	1,720,152	1,754,915	1,767,568
Warwickshire	4,220,230	4,105,983	4,098,631
West Berkshire	1,214,237	1,273,993	1,390,903
West Sussex	5,704,250	5,445,474	5,477,332
Westminster	2,238,826	2,125,291	1,911,490
Wigan	3,120,097	3,273,647	3,298,656
Wiltshire	3,423,148	3,342,973	3,371,102
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,193,378	1,166,154	1,159,487
Wirral	3,689,000	3,501,924	3,299,236
Wokingham	1,236,931	1,174,204	1,136,637
Wolverhampton	2,619,554	2,748,470	2,890,404
Worcestershire	4,406,206	4,263,443	4,268,515
York	1,391,800	1,418,001	1,396,446
Total England	468,732,000	466,732,000	466,732,000

[1] From 1 April 2009 four new local authorities were created: Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford borough and Central Bedfordshire and Cheshire LA split into Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester.

Young People: Drugs

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's measures to tackle drug taking by young people. [295138]

Dawn Primarolo: Reducing the number of young people misusing drugs or alcohol is one of the Government's national priorities and progress is measured through National Indicator 115 and through delivery of the commitments set out in the National Drug Strategy (2008).

Drug use among young people (11-15) has fallen significantly from 20 per cent. in 2001 to 15 per cent. in 2008. Drug use among 16 to 25-year-olds has also decreased significantly from 29.7 per cent. in 1996 to 22.6 per cent. in 2008/09. At the same time as these falls, there are a record number of treatment places available for those young people (under 18) who need them.

Youth of Today Programme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which organisations were involved in the consultation for his Department's Youth of Today programme for; how long the consultation programme was open; how much the consultation cost; if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of all meetings where the consultation was discussed; when the programme will be reviewed; by whom; and at what projected cost. [293645]

Mr. Coaker: A feasibility study for a possible National Institute for Youth Leadership commenced in December 2007 and was completed in April 2008. A list of organisations that participated is at Annex A. A roundtable for stakeholders, chaired by my right hon. Friend the Member for Stretford and Urmston (Beverley Hughes), took place in July 2008 with the following organisations: British Youth Council; the Citizenship Foundation Changemakers; Commission for Youth Social Enterprise; Council on Social Action; the Duke of Edinburgh Awards; National Youth Agency; the Prince's Trust; UK Youth Parliament; V; Young Advisors and the Young Foundation. The cost of the consultation process was £24,728.

A copy of the minutes of feasibility discussions and the ministerial roundtable will be placed in the Library.

The programme will be externally evaluated over the remainder of the contract period till March 2011. The Department will shortly be signing a contract with the approved evaluators with a projected cost of £115,000.

Annex A

Children
Brookfield School
British Youth Council
Centre for Excellence in Leadership
Changemakers
Children of Addictive Parents
Citizenship Foundation
Clubs for Young People
Commission for Youth Social Entrepreneurship
Contented Ltd
ContinYou
CRAC
Crime Concern
CSV
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Communities and Local Government
Development Education Association
The Diana Award
Government Office North East
Groundwork
Growth Matters
The Grubb Institute
Innovation Exchange
London and Quadrant Neighbourhood Investment Teams
London Youth
National Council for Voluntary Youth Services
The National Trust
National Youth Agency
National Youth Theatre
Oxfam
Participation Works
People and Planet
The Prince's Trust

Raleigh International
RSPB
Schools Councils UK
Skills Force Development and Training
UK Youth
UK Youth Parliament
University of Bristol
Volunteering England
The Wildlife Trust
Young Achievers Trust
Young Advisors
Young Enterprise
YouthBank UK
YouthNet

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 27 October 2009

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty Bill

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the monetary value in 2009-10 prices of the relative poverty threshold contained in her Department's Child Poverty Bill for *(a)* a single adult, *(b)* a childless couple and *(c)* a couple with one dependent child; and if she will make a statement. [295019]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 22 October 2009]*: Estimates of the monetary value in 2009-10 prices of the relative poverty threshold are not available. The thresholds for 2007-08 (the latest Households Below Average Income statistics available) are *(a)* £158 per week for a single adult; *(b)* £236 per week for a couple without children; and *(c)* £283 per week for a couple with one child under 14, and £314 per week for a couple with one child who is 14 or over.

Cold Weather Payments: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments have been made to residents of Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in each year since 2003. [295417]

Helen Goodman: Mid-Bedfordshire constituency is linked to Bedford weather station. The number of times cold weather payments have been triggered at this weather station in each year since 2002-03 is given in the following table:

Cold weather payment triggers at Bedford weather station

	Number
2002-03	1
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	3

Source: DWP records.

It is not possible to give the estimated number of payments made in 2002-03 and 2008-09 to residents of Mid-Bedfordshire constituency as this information is not available at constituency level but only by weather station (and Bedford weather station covers a wider area than just this constituency).

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households living in the private rented sector were claiming housing benefit in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each London borough in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [296185]

Helen Goodman: Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Number of households in private rented sector receiving housing benefit in England and each English region: May 2005

	Number
England	692,440
North East	36,790
North West	112,130
Yorkshire and the Humber	63,730
East Midlands	43,700
West Midlands	59,130
East	59,180
London	132,060
South East	104,700
South West	81,020

Number of households in private rented sector receiving housing benefit in England and each English region: May 2009

	Number
England	[1]1,071,050
North East	55,380
North West	159,950
Yorkshire and the Humber	101,340
East Midlands	76,480
West Midlands	101,570
East	96,290
London	[1]200,140
South East	159,990
South West	119,910

Number of households in private rented sector receiving housing benefit in London boroughs: May 2005

	Number
London	132,060
Barking and Dagenham	2,690
Barnet	7,640
Bexley	2,130
Brent	8,590
Bromley	2,800
Camden	3,880
City of London	80
Croydon	7,360
Ealing	5,860
Enfield	8,610
Greenwich	2,980
Hackney	4,490
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,920
Haringey	7,400
Harrow	4,570
Havering	2,200
Hillingdon	3,380
Hounslow	3,310
Islington	2,180
Kensington and Chelsea	2,600
Kingston Upon Thames	1,690
Lambeth	4,710
Lewisham	5,400
Merton	2,620
Newham	8,140
Redbridge	4,830
Richmond Upon Thames	1,000
Southwark	3,180
Sutton	2,060

Number of households in private rented sector receiving housing benefit in London boroughs: May 2005

	Number
Tower Hamlets	2,000
Waltham Forest	4,480
Wandsworth	3,590
Westminster	3,010

Number of households in private rented sector receiving housing benefit in London boroughs: May 2009

	Number
London	[1]200,140
Barking and Dagenham	4,040
Barnet	[2]..
Bexley	3,560
Brent	11,380
Bromley	4,340
Camden	4,120
City of London	110
Croydon	12,900
Ealing	8,600
Enfield	[2]..
Greenwich	4,230
Hackney	7,190
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,720
Haringey	10,090
Harrow	2,000
Havering	3,410
Hillingdon	5,750
Hounslow	5,170
Islington	2,830
Kensington and Chelsea	3,350
Kingston Upon Thames	2,080
Lambeth	6,330
Lewisham	7,940
Merton	3,000
Newham	[2]..
Redbridge	[2]..
Richmond Upon Thames	2,390
Southwark	3,850
Sutton	3,400
Tower Hamlets	3,910
Waltham Forest	7,760
Wandsworth	6,000
Westminster	5,900

[1] Estimates of the four missing London boroughs have been used to get these figures.

[2] Denotes information not available until revised figures are released on 11 November 2009. Please visit
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/
Methodology_revisions_webpage.pdf
for an understanding of improvements in methodology for housing benefit/council tax benefit caseload national statistics.

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
5. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
6. Private tenants exclude registered social landlords.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in May 2005 and Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) taken in May 2009

Housing Benefit: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Mid Bedfordshire constituency were in receipt of housing benefit on the latest date for which figures are available. [295405]

Helen Goodman: Housing benefit information is not available at constituency level.

Housing Benefit: Lone Parents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of teenage single parents in receipt of housing benefit. [294883]

Helen Goodman: The latest available information is in the following table:

Teenage lone parents in receipt of housing benefit in Great Britain

	Number
May 2004	25,000

Notes:
1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. Lone parents are defined as single people with dependants.
3. 16 to 19-year-olds have been included in the sample.
4. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
5. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
6. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2004.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. Quality assurance has been carried out on much of the new data, and the results are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

However, as not all of the detail has been quality assured to publication standard, this particular question can only be answered by using data from the previous detailed data source, which is for May 2004.

New Deal Schemes: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people resident in Enfield North constituency have found employment through the New Deal in each year since 1998. [294191]

Jim Knight: The table shows the number of job starts by young people in the Enfield North constituency who have found work through the New Deal for Young People since 1998. Some individuals will have had more than one job start:

	Job starts
1998	130
1999	180
2000	160
2001	150
2002	110
2003	180
2004	210
2005	190
2006	200
2007	230
2008	200

	Job starts
2009	30

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS postcode directory and customer's postcode.
3. Year of entering job is the calendar year that the job was gained.
4. Latest data are to February 2009.
Source:
The Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate.

The figures are available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents resident in Enfield North constituency found work through the New Deal in each year since 1998. [294192]

Jim Knight: The table shows the number of job starts by people in the Enfield North constituency who have found work through the New Deal for Lone Parents since 1998. Some individuals will have had more than one job start.

	Job starts
1998	—
1999	40
2000	60
2001	60
2002	70
2003	100
2004	130
2005	150
2006	160
2007	140
2008	160
2009	20

Notes:
1. '—' nil or negligible.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS postcode directory and customer's postcode.
4. Year of entering job is the calendar year that the job was gained.
5. Latest data are to February 2009.
Source:
The Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate

The figures are available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Poverty: Children

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what datasets show the number of children living in child poverty by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* ward; how often each is produced; what time lag is involved for each; and if she will make a statement. [295490]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The dataset 'Children in Families in Receipt of Out-of-work Benefits' is currently used as a proxy to measure child poverty at the local level. This dataset is the basis for indicator 116 in the National Indicator Set, used by local government and its partners. The data were produced between 2004 and 2007 and are available at both local authority and ward level. April 2007 is the latest available. There is a six-month time lag for this dataset.

A revised indicator is currently being developed to measure child poverty at local level and will include children living in low income working families as well as those in workless families. The revised indicator will be the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits or working families whose income is below 60 per cent. of median income. This will provide information on both in-work and out-of-work poverty in the local area.

The data will also be available at both local authority and ward level. It will be produced annually. Data will shortly be available for 2006 and 2007.

In addition to NI116, the National Indicator Set provides local authorities and their partners with a wide range of data related to child poverty and its underlying causes. Local authorities can use local administrative data to supplement the data that are provided from central Government.

The Child Poverty Unit is working with the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO)—a sector led organisation—to develop a tool to help local delivery partners analyse local data relating to child poverty. This tool will be available from the end of the year.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children are living in households with income below 60 per cent. of median income before housing costs, based on the family's income *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding income from disability living allowance; and how many such children are in households with one or more disabled adult. [295673]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* In 2007-08, there were 2.9 million children in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median income when disability living allowance is included as income. Of these, 0.8 million children were in households with one or more disabled adult.

When disability living allowance is excluded as income, there were 2.9 million children in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median income in 2007-08. Of these, 0.9 million children were in households with one or more disabled adults.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income, sourced from the Family Resources survey. The Family Resources survey is available in the Library.

2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. For the households below average income series, incomes have been equivalised using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.

6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

7. No adjustment is made to disposable household income to take into account any additional costs that may be incurred due to an illness or disability, because research shows these vary significantly in level and nature, and there is no general agreement on how to measure these costs.

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the saving to the public purse which would arise in each of the next six financial years if the lower age of eligibility for winter fuel payments were raised in line with increases in the state pension age for women. [295459]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The age of eligibility for winter fuel payments will increase in line with the state pension age for women from winter 2010-11 onwards. The necessary legislation was put in place earlier this year.

Government spending plans and forecasts have been based on the assumption that the winter fuel payment qualifying age would increase and therefore there are no savings associated with this change.

Winter Fuel Payments: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overseas-based pensioners received winter fuel allowance in 2008-09. [295494]

Angela Eagle: 64,000 pensioners based overseas received a winter fuel allowance in 2008-09.

Notes:

Data are rounded to the nearest 1000.

Source:

Winter Fuel Payment datasets

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to restrict eligibility for pensioners' winter fuel allowance to those pensioners living in the UK and countries with similar or colder climates. [295495]

Angela Eagle: Under European law some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people who live outside that state but within the European economic area (EEA). To comply with this law winter fuel payments are paid to former UK residents living elsewhere in the EEA if they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last five years. [289968]

The Solicitor-General: Treasury Solicitors (including AGO and HMCPSI) has spent the following on travel and subsistence in each of the last five years

Year ending 31 March	*Treasury Solicitor's (£)*	*AGO (£)*	*HMCPSI (£)*	*Total (£000)*
2005	419,841	77,068	144,746	641,655
2006	486,821	112,103	141,995	740,919
2007	416,544	143,943	166,796	727,283
2008	525,616	84,126	137,003	746,744
2009	362,159	66,825	111,311	540,295

TSol spend includes case related Travel and Subsistence which is recharged to clients on a cost recovery basis.

It is not possible to provide an analysis of this expenditure for each of the categories without the disproportionate cost threshold.

Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO)

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Air fares	—	32,539	73,160	41,058	17,400
Hotels	3,359	52,460	86,312	69,607	24,667
Rail tickets	223,100	109,418	167,860	194,930	65,352
Vehicle hire	4,075	4,268	2,713	950	667
Total	230,534	198,684	330,045	306,545	108,086

[1] 2009-10 figures represent April 2009-September 2009.

RCPO does not identify separately expenditure on restaurant meals.

Serious Fraud Office

£

Financial year	*(a) Car hire*	*(b) Train travel*	*(c) Air travel*	*(d) Hotels*	*(e) Restaurant meals*
2005-06	37,969	101,404	216,061	142,225	4,064
2006-07	48,053	93,845	167,842	318,761	6,154
2007-08	35,905	80,247	308,282	202,592	6,372
2008-09	32,781	139,947	338,993	243,973	8,650
1 April 2009-30 September 2009[1]	8,562	56,464	63,157	93,601	3,863

[1] The last date for which figures are available.

Information is not available in comparable form for 2004-05. The figures for restaurant meals also cover working lunches and refreshments and are thus overstated: a separate breakdown is not readily available.

The Government publish, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel costing in excess of £500. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Causeway Hospital: Prison Escapes

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes have been made to the procedures being used by the Prison Service in Northern Ireland following the review into the escape of a prisoner from the Causeway hospital on 15 April 2008. [295927]

Paul Goggins: Following a brief escape of a prisoner awaiting treatment at the Causeway hospital, a senior prison governor carried out a comprehensive investigation.

The investigation identified a number of shortcomings in the management of the escort and made recommendations for staff to be reminded of the correct procedures. It was concluded there was, however, no need to change the procedures themselves.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress is being made in reducing the availability of illegal drugs in each prison in Northern Ireland. [295926]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) takes very seriously its responsibility to stop illegal drugs entering establishments. Visitors, staff and others are required to undergo a rub-down search, and items brought into prisons are subject to a Rapiscan search. A passive drugs dog is used to screen visitors to prisoners before admission to the visits room. Prisoners entering or leaving the visits room are subject to either a rub-down or full search; the latter requires removal of clothing. CCTV operates in all visits rooms, and includes the use of new CCTV equipment at Maghaberry. Supervisory staff patrol the visits room with modern, discreet communication links to the CCTV operator. Searching takes place regularly throughout establishments including active search dogs trained to detect secreted drugs.

This year NIPS introduced new procedures for management of prisoners' private cash. Co-operation between NIPS and PSNI has increased with a better flow of intelligence and targeted searching of visitors and accommodation areas. Revised Prison Rules will be introduced by the year end to facilitate mandatory drug testing of all prisoners using new saliva testing procedures to replace the current urine test. Governors will have delegated authority to ban visitors and impose closed visits on prisoners and visitors who abuse the visiting arrangements.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Thames Estuary

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has received representations from the Mayor of London on the construction of an airport in the Thames Estuary. [293388]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 15 October 2009]*: Ministers in the Department for Transport have not received any formal or substantive representations on this matter from the Mayor of London, but are familiar with his views on it, which have been widely reported. The Mayor has raised the subject at various meetings with the Secretary of State for Transport and his predecessors, but no substantive or costed proposal has been put forward.

Aviation: Health Hazards

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many UK-based pilots have reported to his Department symptoms of neurological damage alleged to have arisen from aerotoxic syndrome. [295182]

Paul Clark: We have received correspondence from a very small number of pilots who consider they have received neurological damage in the course of their work but the Department for Transport does not operate a reporting system for pilot fitness.

Aviation: Waltham Forest

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what change in the number of aircraft flying over Waltham Forest has resulted from the increased number of flights from City Airport. [295099]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The air traffic management aspects of implementing the increase in the number of annual flights at London City Airport approved in October 2008 by the London Borough of Newham are an operational matter for NATS, regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). However, CAA statistics indicate that the number of air traffic movements to and from London City Airport have fallen in recent months compared to the previous year's figures.

London City: Air transport movements (ATMs) per month (including percentage change over previous year) 2009

	Number	Percentage change
January	5,861	-12
February	5,688	-8
March	6,586	-1
April	5,792	-24
May	5,809	-20
June	5,903	-21
July	5,456	-27
August	[1]4,558	-30.5

[1] CAA provisional statistics

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what change there has been to the number of aircraft flying over Waltham Forest which have taken off from or are landing at Heathrow airport in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [295100]

Paul Clark: According to available Civil Aviation Authority data, in August 2008 there were approximately 41,000 aircraft movements (arrivals and departures) at Heathrow airport, of which approximately 7,600 passed over Waltham Forest. The vast majority of these were arrivals. In August 2009, there were approximately 39,800 aircraft movements at Heathrow airport of which approximately 6,600 passed over Waltham Forest.

Bus Services: Concessions

Natascha Engel: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire have received free bus travel under the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [294759]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

North East Derbyshire is part of the Derbyshire County concessionary travel scheme. The last information held by the Department was that as of 17 April 2009, the Derbyshire County scheme had issued 227,472 of the new smartcard concessionary passes. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

Buses: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the percentage change in levels of bus usage in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the City of York was in each year since 1996-97. [295223]

Mr. Khan: Between 1996-97 and 2007-08 (the latest year for which figures are currently available) the number of local bus passenger journeys in England increased by 18 per cent. Over the same period the number of local bus passenger journeys in Yorkshire and the Humber decreased by 13 per cent.

Owing to the small number of bus operators present in the area, figures for the City of York are commercially confidential and therefore cannot be published.

Figures for each year can be found in the following table:

Passenger journeys[1] for Yorkshire and Humberside and England, 1996-97 to 2007-08

Million

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England												
Passenger journeys	3,844	3,859	3,808	3,804	3,842	3,881	3,964	4,087	4,140	4,196	4,470	4,530
Percentage change	—	0.4	-1.3	-0.1	1.0	1.0	2.1	3.1	1.3	1.4	6.5	1.3
Yorkshire and the Humber												
Passenger journeys	431	419	394	398	397	387	388	376	358	362	381	374
Percentage change	—	-2.8	-6.0	1.0	-0.3	-2.5	0.3	-3.1	-4.8	1.1	5.2	-1.8

[1] Each boarding of the vehicle is counted as one journey.

Source:

DfT Survey of Bus Operators

Crossrail Line

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many of his Department's staff have been allocated to work on Crossrail in each year since 2000. [295161]

Mr. Khan: Records are not kept in the specific format required to derive the answer to this question. However, the following table provides details of the approximate number of departmental staff from the Department for Transport and relevant Departments prior to its establishment in 2002, who worked primarily on Crossrail at some point during each year since 2000 based on best estimates:

Total number of Department for Transport staff who worked primarily on Crossrail

	Number
2000	0
2001	0
2002	0
2003	3
2004	6
2005	15
2006	13
2007	14
2008	21
2009	10

The figures shown do not include staff numbers from Transport for London, the Department for Transport's co-sponsor in the scheme, or at Crossrail Limited (formerly Cross London Rail Links), the Project Delivery Body.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many officials in his Department have worked on matters relating to *(a)* road works, *(b)* traffic lights and *(c)* parking enforcement on private property in each year since 2000. [294768]

Mr. Khan: A wide range of officials in the central Department for Transport and its agencies have contributed to policy developments and projects relating to these matters. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many officials in his Department have worked on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project in each year since 1997. [294770]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not have records of the number of officials who have worked on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project as far back as 1997. However we do have figures for the number of full-time equivalents from 2002 as follows:

2002 to mid-2005 inclusive: Five

Mid-2005 to 2007: Three

2008 to date: Two.

These figures relate to the delivery phase of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294985]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its agencies do not operate any helplines.

First TransPennine Express: Standards

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to improve the TransPennine peak time train service between Manchester and *(a)* Sheffield, *(b)* Stockport, *(c)* Stalybridge, *(d)* West Yorkshire, *(e)* Salford, *(f)* Bolton and *(g)* Warrington. [295581]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The Government's plans for further electrification of the network will lead to the introduction of additional electric trains. This will in turn allow the redeployment of existing diesel trains to provide additional capacity on TransPennine services and it is anticipated that this will occur by 2014.

Heathrow Airport

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what changes to the flight paths of aircraft *(a)* taking off from and *(b)* landing at Heathrow Airport there have been in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [295101]

Paul Clark: According to the Civil Aviation Authority there have been no changes to the airspace structure or arrival/departure procedures associated with London Heathrow in the last 12 months.

Parking

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has assessed the effect of restrictions on off-street parking spaces in new residential developments on the *(a)* availability and *(b)* accessibility of on-street parking. [294899]

Mr. Khan: There is extensive research on car parking. In May 2007 for example the Department of Communities and Local Government published residential car parking research, which addressed the availability of on- and off-street parking in residential developments and the efficiency of allocating spaces to dwellings. It concluded that well-designed on-street parking in residential areas can make a valuable and flexible contribution to the overall supply of parking.

The full report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/residentialcarparking

The 'Manual for Streets' also explains the efficiency benefits of unallocated car parking and the need to meet at least some of the normal demand on the street. This can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/manforstreets/

Railways: Freight

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned research into the likely consequences of the introduction of a freight subsidy for the quantity of goods carried by rail. [295812]

Chris Mole: The current rail environmental benefit procurement scheme has two components that provide revenue support for rail freight based upon the amount of lorries removed from the roads. The Department for Transport has reviewed both of the rail freight support schemes over the last two years. Consequently we are continuing with the well established freight facilities grant scheme and have secured European state aids clearance for the introduction of a revised revenue support scheme from April next year called mode shift revenue support. Both of the schemes are designed to help rail freight compete more effectively with road transport and to increase the quantity of goods transported by rail.

Railways: Penalty Fares

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place *(a)* in the Library and *(b)* on his Department's website copies of his Department's correspondence with (i) Passenger Focus and (ii) London Travel Watch relating to his Department's consultation with the rail industry on penalty fares. [295953]

Chris Mole: Correspondence with Passenger Focus and London TravelWatch on the Penalty Fares Rules and Penalty Fares Policy will be published on the Department for Transport's website and placed in the Libraries of the House after the consultation process has been completed.

Railways: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average number of passengers on rail services in Staffordshire in each of the last two years. [296252]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The Office of Rail Regulation does however publish regional passenger flows in the National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Libraries or from their website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Road Signs and Markings: Research

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department conducts regular research on public awareness and understanding of traffic signs and symbols. [294710]

Mr. Khan: Familiarity and understanding of traffic signs are an integral part of the theory and practical driving test.

The Department for Transport last conducted research on wider understanding of traffic signs in 2003. An earlier study was carried out in 1985. The results of the most recent study were published in a report entitled "Increasing Understanding of Traffic Signs" in March 2004. A further research project has been agreed to inform the ongoing traffic signs policy review. We plan to commission this work later this year.

Road Signs and Markings: Reviews

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department last conducted a review of traffic signage rules. [294709]

Mr. Khan: The last review of traffic signing rules resulted in the current Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions, which came into force in January 2003. In September 2008 the Department for Transport announced the start of a root and branch review of traffic signing policy in Great Britain. The ongoing review has already led to a number of proposed regulatory amendments, on which we are currently consulting. We expect one of the final review outcomes to be a comprehensive package of revised regulations.

Road Traffic Control

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what sanctions have been applied to highways authorities found to be in breach of the duty to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic under the Traffic Management Act 2004. [294708]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2281W, which informed her that no intervention notices under section 20 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 have been issued. Therefore, the associated intervention powers provided by that Act have not been applied to highway authorities.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in what proportion of motorway collisions driving too close to the vehicle in front given the speed of the vehicle has been a factor in the cause of the collision in each of the last five years. [294714]

Paul Clark: Contributory factors data in reported road accidents are only available since 2005. The information requested is given in the table:

Percentage[1] of reported road accidents on motorways, where "Following too close" was attributed as a contributory factor, Great Britain, 2005-08

	Percentage of accidents
2005	18
2006	16
2007	16
2008	16

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Roads: Finance

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent per capita on *(a)* highways and *(b)* other roads in (i) Suffolk, (ii) the East of England and (iii) nationally in each of the last five years. [294604]

Mr. Khan: The information is not available in the form requested.

Funding for investment, maintenance and operation of strategic roads is the responsibility of the Highways Agency (HA). The HA's reporting systems do not record actual expenditure for local authority areas; expenditure is recorded by project and activity. Estimates are compiled for regional expenditure to supplement data reported in the Department for Transport's annual report. Details of Highways Agency expenditure are included in their annual report which is available in the Library of the House.

The development and improvement of non-strategic roads in England is the responsibility of the relevant local transport authority. The Department allocates block funding to local transport authorities outside London for capital investment in transport improvement and maintenance projects. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

There is additional funding available for detrunked roads and road safety schemes. The following table shows the allocations for England (excluding London), the East of England and Suffolk in each of the last five years for these categories.

£ million

	Capital funding for non strategic roads	*Funding for road safety and detrunked roads*	*Total funding*	*Per capita spend (£)*
Suffolk				
2008-09	21.545	4.819	26.364	36.821
2007-08	21.845	6.193	28.038	39.546
2006-07	17.610	3.728	21.338	30.396
2005-06	22.624	3.586	26.210	37.658
2004-05	22.230	3.145	25.375	36.936
East of England				
2008-09	157.791	28.422	186.213	32.504
2007-08	159.476	32.221	191.697	33.863
2006-07	152.826	18.733	171.559	30.603
2005-06	156.899	10.225	167.124	30.042
2004-05	156.386	9.839	166.425	30.199

£ million

	Capital funding for non strategic roads	*Funding for road safety and detrunked roads*	*Total funding*	*Per capita spend (£)*
England (excludes London)				
2008-09	1,280.000	183.691	1,463.691	33.398
2007-08	1,254.000	181.936	1,435.936	32.983
2006-07	1,218.871	83.716	1,302.587	30.117
2005-06	1,215.285	80.358	1,295.643	30.125
2004-05	1,308.411	63.509	1,371.920	32.113

In addition over £118 million was provided for local major road projects in the East of England over this five year period. For Suffolk specifically the Department contributed £29.621 million towards the South Lowestoft Relief Road and £12 million towards the B1115 Stowmarket Relief Road.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant. Transport for London are directly responsible for London's strategic roads and receive financial support from the Government's Greater London Authority Transport Grant.

Transport: Infrastructure

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much is budgeted to be spent from the public purse on transport infrastructure improvements in *(a)* the South West and *(b)* Dorset in 2009-10. [295167]

Mr. Khan: A budget for total Department for Transport expenditure on transport infrastructure improvements by region is not available. The following figures show allocations of local and regional funding for combined spend on the Integrated Transport Block (generally schemes costing less than £5 million) and highway maintenance, and Major schemes (generally schemes costing more than £5 million).

South West

Major schemes: £92 million

Integrated Transport Block and highway maintenance: £175 million

Dorset

Major schemes: £32 million

Integrated Transport Block and highway maintenance: £19 million

The Department spends funds on the strategic road network through the Highways Agency (HA). The HA's reporting systems do not record actual expenditure for local authority areas; expenditure is recorded by project and activity.

Tunnels: Mobile Phones

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what studies his Department has made of mobile telephone coverage in road and rail tunnels; and how many road and rail tunnels are equipped with GSM transceivers. [295611]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not conducted studies on mobile phone coverage in tunnels. The Heathrow Express rail service does offer uninterrupted mobile coverage in its tunnel sections. However in general rail tunnels are not equipped with GSM transceivers.

Most existing Highways Agency tunnels have Airwave transmission to support emergency services and traffic officer communications. Where provision is made for public mobile phone coverage in tunnels, suitable agreements are required with the individual mobile phone operators.

For new, longer Highways Agency road tunnels such as at Hindhead, and where tunnels are currently being upgraded such as on the A1 (M) at Hatfield, the infrastructure is being provided to support mobile phone usage. Mobile phone coverage is also available in both bores of the Dartford tunnel. For shorter tunnels generally the mobile phone signal spills through the portal enabling reception in most of the tunnel.

The management of the local road network in England is the responsibility of local highway authorities. Data on how many road tunnels on local roads in England are equipped with GSM transceivers are not held centrally.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Environment Protection

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce levels of *(a)* greenhouse gas emissions and *(b)* biodiversity loss arising from intensive farming practices; and if he will make a statement. [293670]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan published on 15 July is the most systematic response to climate change of any major developed economy, setting out the Government's approach to securing reductions from the agriculture sector. It challenges the English farming industry to develop a voluntary plan to deliver three million tonnes CO_2 of emissions savings from livestock and fertiliser—which will reduce emissions in English agriculture by about 10 per cent. by 2020.

To achieve this, Government will be supporting farmers to take action by ensuring they have access to a comprehensive low-carbon advisory service; continuing our support for Anaerobic Digestion; improving the national inventory for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from farming; and working with the Carbon Trust to make farming businesses eligible for its interest-free loans for low-carbon activity.

The Plan commits Government to review progress on the voluntary plan by 2012 and intervene if the voluntary plan is failing to deliver. Government will publish its options for intervention in its Carbon Reduction Delivery Plan in spring 2010.

We have also worked closely with the dairy sector to produce a Dairy Roadmap to develop opportunities to mitigate climate change impacts and assess the positive benefits to the landscape and biodiversity of cattle husbandry. A Beef and Lamb Roadmap is now being developed by the industry with DEFRA support and the newly formed Pig Meat Supply Chain Task Force will be working with the industry's Pig Environment Partnership to deliver similar roadmap for the pig sector.

Agriculture can have both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity. These effects are monitored through a variety of sources. These include the Farmland Birds Index, which represents a general indicator of the state of the farmed environment, research and analyses through the Agricultural Change and Environment Observatory and the continued development of Environmental Accounts for Agriculture. The aim is to quantify and value the full range of impacts using the best available evidence from a range of sources to help inform policy responses.

Policy mechanisms include regulation and incentives, as well as providing information and advice to farmers on how to improve their environmental performance. Earlier this year there was a review of baseline standards in cross compliance that farmers have to meet as a condition of the Single Payment Scheme. Cross compliance protects a variety of habitat features and in future will place greater emphasis on protecting water resources and water quality. These standards are complemented by our agri-environment schemes such as Environmental Stewardship which reward farmers for positive habitat management.

Environmental Stewardship has recently been reviewed resulting in new options to further encourage farmers to manage their land in an environmentally friendly way and an overarching climate change theme. In particular there will be a new component specifically designed for uplands farmers which will be launched in January 2010. Our agri-environment schemes have been popular and successful with 65.8 per cent. of farmland currently under agreement. Natural England has a target to increase the coverage of the schemes to 70 per cent. by March 2011.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many individuals have been paid £200,000 or more under the single farm payment scheme in each year for which figures are available; and how much was paid to each such recipient in each such year. [291920]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The overall Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payments made to individuals who received £200,000 or more in the last three years and total amounts are reflected in the following table. The details for each recipient will be placed in the House Library.

SPS year	*Individuals*	*Total amount paid (£)*[1]
2006	344	119,795,387.90
2007	309	107,022,405.65
2008[2]	378	120,664,553.45

[1] The total payment value for each year does not account for any additional payments made as a result of any modulation refund due to individuals.

[2] This line reflects the 2008 claim payments made to date. The Rural Payments Agency continues to work on a small number of applications that are not yet validated for full payment.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the sum approved by the European Commission Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health for implementation of the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Programme will be available to tackle bovine tuberculosis in Wales. [295359]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The money will be split between England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the division of the funding has yet to be agreed.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what conditions govern the use of the grant provided by the European Commission Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health for implementation of the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Programme. [295436]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Commission Decision that was approved by the Standing Committee allows allocated EU funding to be used to reimburse member states for three measures: the costs of tuberculin testing, gamma interferon blood testing and compensation for cattle slaughtered.

The Decision sets out the maximum of the costs that member states can claim for each:

tuberculin test: €1.75 per test
gamma-interferon test: €5 per test
compensation: €375 per animal.

Climate Change: Farming

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned on the effect of farming methods on climate change. [295194]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has commissioned a number of studies, some of which are ongoing, to assess the environmental impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from several agricultural commodities throughout their lifecycle. This includes assessment of commodities produced in different farming systems (including organic). The most relevant studies are listed as follows:

Project AC020: A study of the scope for the application of research in animal genomics and breeding to reduce nitrogen and methane emissions from livestock based food chains—published in April 2008.

Project AC020: Developing technologies to improve the fertility of dairy cows—published in January 2008.

Project AC0206: Agriculture and climate change: turning results into practical action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—A review—published in July 2007.

Project AC0207: The translation of existing research outputs into actions that reduce pollution gas emissions from agriculture—due for imminent completion.

Project AC0208: The limits to a sustainable livestock sector in the UK—due for imminent completion.

Project AC0209: Ruminant nutrition regimes to reduce methane and nitrogen emissions—due for completion in March 2010.

Project IS0205: Determining the environmental burdens and resource use in the production of agricultural and horticultural commodities—published in August 2005.

Project IS0222: Developing and delivering environmental Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) of agricultural systems—due to be completed in September 2010.

Project AC0210: Economic and environmental impacts of livestock production in the UK—due to be completed in July 2010.

Project AC0214: Roadmaps integrating RTD in developing realistic GHG mitigation options from agriculture up to 2030—due for imminent completion.

Project AC0216: Review of the Marginal Abatement Cost Curves for Agriculture produced for the Committee on Climate Change—due for imminent completion.

Project AC0219: Methane emissions by individual dairy cows under commercial conditions—due to be completed in March 2010

Project AC0310. Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation—a Risk Based Approach—due for completion in April 2010.

Project AC0406: The optimisation and impacts of expanding biogas production—due for completion in January 2010.

Project WQ0106: Quantitative Assessment of Scenarios for Managing Trade-Off Between Economics, Environment and Media—completed 2009.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has received a request to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry. [293563]

Hilary Benn: I refer to the Prime Minister's answer on 9 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1210W.

Noise

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date his Department first proposed that a neighbourhood noise strategy would be published; and when he now expects the strategy to be published. [295166]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In December 2002, the Government noted that there was a need for a Neighbour Noise strategy to compliment the support that had been received for developing an Ambient Noise strategy. Subsequently, it was agreed that it would be sensible to combine the proposed ambient and neighbourhood strategies into a single strategy addressing environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise.

However, 2002 was also the year that the environmental noise directive (END) became law, and its implementation has had to be the Department's main focus of activity regarding noise. In meeting the requirements of the END, we are now progressing noise action plans, and this is helping to refine existing policy as evidence on the effects of noise continues to emerge.

The Government are in the process of consolidating, for all sources of noise, their longer term noise management policies, some of which can be found in the draft noise action plans, and determining how these could be best delivered.

Rights of Way: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to what percentage of the coastline of the Yorkshire and the Humber region the right of public access is legally secure. [295624]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the Yorkshire and the Humber region, 70 per cent. (approximately 122 miles) of the coast has legally secure access on existing public rights of way. This includes access by public footpath, road and promenade.

Sheep: Tagging

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the merits of providing funding from the public purse for the purchase of electronic readers and software by livestock producers required to comply with electronic sheep tagging regulations. [295007]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has no plans to fund any equipment or software required for compliance with electronic sheep tagging regulations (EID). However, some rural development funding may be available to support training for livestock producers to help prepare them for EID implementation, where such purposes are in line with regionally determined priorities.

Water Supply

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations his Department has received on low water pressure. [296073]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has not received any recent representations on low water pressure.

However, since 1 April 2008, Ofwat, the independent economic regulator for the water industry, has received three representations on the subject, and the Consumer Council for Water has received 595.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have lost *(a)* eyes, *(b)* their sight and *(c)* one or more limbs as a result of injuries sustained in operations in Afghanistan in each month since January 2008. [293813]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information provided in the following table summarises live UK service personnel who have an injury coded as a traumatic or surgical amputation, partial or complete, for either upper or lower limbs. This could range from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of an entire limb or limbs, between 1 January 2008 and 30 September 2009 as a result of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq combined. Those classified as "significant multiple amputees" have suffered amputations above the wrist or ankle on more than one limb.

Period	*Total limb amputees*	*Of which: significant multiple amputees*
January 2008 to December 2008	27	6
January 2009 to September 2009	32	13
Total	55	19

Numbers are released in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidance, so that when small numbers of patients are concerned, these are suppressed to protect patient confidentiality. In each case, owing to the small numbers involved, it is not possible to present meaningful data on a monthly basis.

The most complete data currently available for injuries to the eye cover the period 19 July 2004 to 14 July 2008. In this four-year period, 62 casualties from Op Herrick sustained eye injuries, of which 15 lost sight in one or both eyes to a level of visual acuity less than 6/60. More recent data have yet to be validated.

In addition to the above, between 1 April 2006 and 30 June 2009, the number of UK service casualties who have been registered as severely sight impaired (SSI), i.e. effectively blind, from Op Herrick is less than five. The actual number is not released in order to avoid compromising individual patient details in circumstances where small numbers of patients are involved.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fixed-wing Royal Air Force aircraft are deployed in Afghanistan. [293832]

Bill Rammell: The fixed-wing manned aircraft currently based in Afghanistan are the GR4 Tornado and the C-130 Hercules. There are eight Tornados and four Hercules based in Afghanistan.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian contractors working for his Department are based in Afghanistan to provide support and maintenance for vehicles purchased as urgent operational requirements. [295180]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As at 22 October 2009, there were 13 field support representatives (civilian contractor staff) based in Afghanistan providing support and maintenance for vehicles purchased as urgent operational requirements.

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the performance of mobile dental facilities introduced for service personnel in December 2008. [291514]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Dental Services did not introduce any new mobile dental facilities for military personnel in December 2008. Where fixed dental surgeries are not available, the three armed forces dental branches have used portable dental units for the last 30 years or more. They are mainly employed on land operations or on smaller HM ships that do not routinely carry a dental team. The Royal Naval Dental Services have also used mobile dental surgeries in HM dockyards for many years. These mobile dental facilities are currently being refurbished.

More generally, the Service Personnel Command Paper (Cm 7424) noted the problems encountered by service families in accessing dental services, and stated that the Government would address these in a variety of ways, including the provision of mobile services. However, when considering a suitable location for trialling mobile services, it became clear that there was a lack of information about the real extent of difficulties in getting access to dentistry, and most reported cases could be resolved through advice and advocacy from local service and welfare organisations. The Ministry of Defence and the Department of Health concluded there was no requirement for a trial at this time, but work continues to gather evidence of any geographical problems, and should the need for mobile services become apparent this solution will be reconsidered.

Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to ensure that internal disciplinary proceedings and findings of the Service Justice System, including proceedings which have taken place outside the UK, are taken into account. [294992]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Existing service justice system processes already inform the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) of appropriate findings both within and outside the UK. This procedure will continue. With compulsory Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) registration and monitoring not effective until November 2010, the implications for the services of this aspect of the Vetting and Barring Scheme are still being developed. To that end, we continue to work closely with both the ISA and CRB.

Armed Forces: Families

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel stationed at each base in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* abroad of the (i) Army, (ii) Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force; which of these bases has an officer in charge of families; and what recreational, social, medical and educational facilities are available at each base for forces families. [295089]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are well over a thousand locations in the UK and around the world where armed forces personnel and their families are based. To list the numbers of personnel and the facilities available at each could be done only at disproportionate cost. Each base has personnel who, as part of their duties, are responsible for the welfare of service personnel and their families. Facilities available include a wide range of services from HIVE information services, dedicated sports and recreational facilities, community centres, crèches to numerous social and special interest clubs.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of all meetings of the Families Working Group held in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [295090]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The minutes of the Families Working Group held in 2008 and 2009 will be placed in the Library of the House shortly. These documents will be reproduced in full other than the names of individuals which will be redacted according to normal practice.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he appointed the Defence Medical Inspector General; on what date he expects the Inspector to publish his first annual report; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on publication. [294958]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Medical Services' Inspector General (IG) post was created early in 2008. Its first incumbent, Surg RAdm Philip Raffaelli, was succeeded by the current post holder, Air Cdre Aroop Mozumder, on 8 July 2009. The IG's principal role is to provide the Surgeon General with an efficient and effective healthcare and corporate governance assurance framework and to oversee this process.

The IG will produce an annual report of activity in summer 2010 which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1219W, on armed forces: housing, how many units of substitute service accommodation there are in each region. [296194]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following tables list the number and location of all substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) and substitute service single accommodation (SSSA).

SSFA

Location	*Number of properties*
Aberdeen	2
Birmingham	109
Bath	22
Blackburn	5
Bradford	1
Bournemouth	29
Bolton	8
Brighton	4
Bromley	1
Bristol	13
Carlisle	4
Cambridge	20
Cardiff	13
Chester	7
Chelmsford	9
Colchester	2
Croydon	3
Canterbury	4
Coventry	24
Crewe	1
Dundee	3
Derby	2
Dumfries	2
Durham	5
Darlington	34
Doncaster	3
Dorchester	29
Dudley	2
London E	3
Exeter	26
Falkirk	11
Glasgow	8
Gloucester	10
Guildford	18
Harrow	17
Huddersfield	2
Harrogate	1
Hemel Hempstead	128
Hereford	96
Hull	9
Halifax	4
Ipswich	9
Kilmarnock	3
Kensington Upon Thames	5
Liverpool	18
Lancaster	14
Llandrindod Wells	2
Leicester	7
Llandudno	12
Leeds	8
Luton	5
Manchester	4
Milton Keynes	10
London N	3
Newcastle	5
Nottingham	55
Newport	9
London NW	5
Oldham	4
Oxford	179
Paisley	2
Peterborough	3
Plymouth	94
Portsmouth	18
Preston	10
Reading	[illegible]
Redhill	1
Sheffield	11
Swansea	15
London SE	5
Stevenage	3
Stockport	7
Slough	21
Sutton	1
Swindon	24
Southampton	71
Salisbury	56
Sunderland	2
Southend on Sea	1
Stoke on Trent	4
London SW	12
Shrewsbury	6
Taunton	18
Berwick Upon Tweed	3
Tonbridge	6
Torquay	3
Truro	32
Middlesbrough	17
Twickenham	3
Uxbridge	4
London W	12
Warrington	4
Watford	3
Wakefield	1
Wigan	1
Worcester	5
Walsall	1
Wolverhampton	2
York	25
Shetland Islands	1
Total	1,563

SSSA

Location	*Number of properties*
Aberdeen	17
Bath	169
Belfast	3
Berwick upon Tweed	2
Birmingham	271
Blackburn	6
Blackpool	60
Bolton	17
Bournemouth	9
Bradford	2
Brighton	19
Bristol	437
Bromley	7
Cambridge	45
Canterbury	31
Cardiff	52
Carlisle	24
Chelmsford	8
Chester	36
Colchester	132
Coventry	30
Crewe	3
Croydon	9
Darlington	87
Dartford	3
Derby	5
Doncaster	8
Dorchester	10
Dudley	2
Dumfries	3
Dundee	29
Durham	4
Edinburgh	69
Enfield	2
Exeter	36
Falkirk	24
Glasgow	233
Gloucester	39
Guildford	168
Halifax	2
Harrow	11
Harrogate	13
Hemel Hempstead	4
Hereford	146
Huddersfield	2
Hull	82
Ilford	6
Inverness	18
Ipswich	87
Kensington Upon Thames	16
Kilmarnock	30
Kirkcaldy	8
Kirkwall	3
Lancaster	151
Llandrindod Wells	34
Leeds	35
Leicester	24
Lincoln	1
Liverpool	72
Llandudno	42
London E	214

SSSA

Location	*Number of properties*
London EC	10
London N	32
London NW	64
London SE	150
London SW	470
London W	72
London WC	1
Luton	17
Manchester	43
Medway	5
Middlesbrough	19
Milton Keynes	33
Motherwell	2
Newcastle	92
Newport	46
Northampton	1
Norwich	7
Nottingham	26
Oldham	3
Oxford	28
Paisley	7
Perth	14
Peterborough	9
Plymouth	31
Portsmouth	57
Preston	47
Reading	17
Rosyth	10
Romford	6
Salisbury	122
Sheffield	38
Shrewsbury	7
Slough	23
Southampton	26
Southend On Sea	3
Stevenage	6
Stoke on Trent	13
Stockport	4
Sunderland	4
Sutton	2
Swansea	18
Swindon	86
Taunton	14
Telford	8
Tonbridge	47
Torquay	2
Truro	16
Twickenham	63
Uxbridge	1
Wakefield	15
Walsall	7
Warrington	23
Watford	5
Wigan	3
Wolverhampton	4
Worcester	7
York	61
Total	5,100

The SSFA/SSSA figures represent a snapshot of properties held. The total number of SSFA and SSSA held fluctuates from day to day as leases are terminated or taken on.

Armed Forces: Vetting

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made to ensure that all those whose normal duties involve caring for, training, supervising or being in charge of vulnerable service personnel and those under the age of 18 are subject to monitoring under the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. [294991]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 applies to all service personnel who perform 'regulated activity' duties and to which the Act ordinarily applies. Additionally, the Act contains provisions which enable the armed forces to request that those who supervise or train under-18s apply to be registered and monitored under the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS), which was launched on 12 October 2009. To meet the increased safeguards introduced on that date, we have amended our policy and processes.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether members of the armed forces required to work with recruits under the age of 18 are required to undergo Independent Safeguarding Authority checks. [295616]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Yes. Instructors within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 training environment, and their supervisors, will be subject to the Independent Safeguarding Authority registration and monitoring requirements when they become compulsory in November 2010.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will introduce vehicle-mounted radar devices to armed forces vehicles in order to detect improvised explosive devices. [295685]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A range of equipment is in service to counter the threat from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and mines, but no single piece of equipment can provide complete protection. While it is impossible to protect troops from every eventuality, we do everything possible to tackle the risks posed by IEDs, both in terms of equipment capability, but also the critical areas of tactics and training. I cannot go into the specific details of technical solutions such as electronic counter-measures as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the operational security of our armed forces.

Defence Academy: Finance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget of the Defence Academy of the UK was in each year since 2002; and how much the Academy has spent in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* overseas in each such year. [295765]

Bill Rammell: The Defence Academy's Operating cost for each financial year since 2002 is detailed in the following table.

Financial year	*Net operating cost after interest (£)*
2002-03	96,183,234
2003-04	97,098,893
2004-05	91,389,435
2005-06	128,385,106
2006-07	120,256,279
2007-08	129,695,219
2008-09	128,022,500

The additional information relating to how much the Academy has spent in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and overseas in each year is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [295917]

Bill Rammell: While insurgents still mount occasional high-profile attacks, such as the horrific bombings in Baghdad on Sunday, the security situation in Iraq is nonetheless continuing to steadily improve. Levels of violence are substantially less than at the height of the insurgency three years ago, and remain at a level last seen in 2003. South East Iraq, where UK forces operated, remains largely peaceful.

Joint Exercises

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment he has made of the environmental impact of the Joint Warrior military exercises; [295854]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to minimise the adverse environmental impact of military exercises conducted in Moray Firth. [295855]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The Ministry of Defence takes its responsibilities towards the environment very seriously. Prior to Exercise Joint Warrior, the Royal Navy consulted widely with interested parties such as non-governmental organisations, local authorities, various national rural agencies, and landowners. During the planning of the exercise, environmental impact assessments were conducted for all potentially damaging activities. All participants were given extensive briefs on safety and environmental considerations which specified that environmental awareness takes priority over military training objectives, and a precautionary approach is adopted to all aspects of the exercise which may have an environmental impact. Ships remain ready to take immediate action to minimise any risk. Before any active sonar transmissions, a full environmental impact assessment is conducted, look-outs are posted, and equipment is used to listen for marine mammal activity. If marine mammals are detected sonar transmissions are terminated or modified in order to minimise the risk. There are also continual monitoring procedures that ensure compliance with international pollution prevention standards and crews are also trained to manage onboard incidents to minimise environmental impacts. No environmental impact has been reported following the most recent Joint Warrior exercise.

Met Office

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have held with the Operational Efficiency Programme project team on the future of the Met Office; and when the next such meeting will take place. [295641]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) Met Office Review Group comprises officials from the Ministry of Defence, Shareholder Executive, HM Treasury and the Met Office. The review group meets regularly in undertaking the review. The next review group meeting is schedule for 27 November 2009.

The Secretary of State for Defence is regularly briefed on the progress of the review.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make a statement on the future of the Met Office. [295642]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Met Office Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) Review Group is exploring a number of options, including reviewing Met Office's business model, ownership structure and commercial activities and opportunities.

An update on the Met Office OEP review will be provided around the pre-Budget report.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider the merits of placing responsibility for the commercial operations of the Met Office *(a)* within a single Government department and *(b)* with a single minister. [295643]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Met Office is a trading fund of the Ministry of Defence. As the owner, I have day to day ministerial responsibility for the Met Office, including its commercial activities. Ministerial responsibility for the Met Office ultimately rests with the Secretary of State for Defence.

The Met Office Operational Efficiency Programme Review Group is exploring a number of options, including reviewing Met Office's business model, ownership structure and commercial activities and opportunities. An update on this work will be provided around the pre-Budget report.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to meet private sector stakeholders as part of his Department's ongoing review of the Met Office. [295644]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As the Met Office Operational Efficiency Programme Review Group develop more detailed work over the coming months engagement with the private sector will be considered.

Territorial Army

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army members there are in *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* the UK. [295484]

Bill Rammell: The number of Territorial Army (TA) personnel in Lancashire, the North West and the UK as a whole are shown in the following table.

	Number of TA personnel
Lancashire	410
North West	1,710
UK	29,400

These figures include those TA personnel mobilised in support of operations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Spatial Strategy

16. **Mr. Valory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the current timetable is for the revision of regional spatial strategies. [295536]

Mr. Denham: Good progress has been made in completing the first round of revisions to the eight Regional Spatial Strategies which cover England.

To date six regions have published their final revisions as follows:

12 May 2008: East of England

21 May 2008: Yorkshire and Humber

15 July 2008: North East

30 September 2008: North West

12 March 2009: East Midlands

6 April 2009: South East.

The west midlands is taking a phased approach to the revision of its RSS:

Phase 1 covering the black country was finalised on 15 January 2008.

Phase 2 which covers wider housing issues among other things has been through an examination in public and I am currently considering the panel's report published in September. I expect to consult on any proposed changes in the new year and publish the final plan later in 2010.

The south west RSS was due to be published last summer. However in the light of a legal judgment on sustainability appraisal we have agreed to do some further work and consultation and aim to publish it in 2010.

19. **Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to housing targets in Solihull are to be proposed in the phase 2 revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands as a result of the report by Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners. [295539]

Mr. Malik: The independent panel examining the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy has recommended that the housing targets for Solihull should be increased from 7,600 to 10,500. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is now considering his Proposed Changes, which will be published for consultation following completion of sustainability appraisal and habitats regulation assessments.

Council House Building

17. **Jane Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rules apply to local authorities in the first and second rounds of the council house building programme. [295537]

John Healey: All local housing authorities in England are eligible to bid to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). I announced successful round one bids in September; and the deadline for submitting bids in round two is 30 October.

Code For Sustainable Homes

18. **Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account his Department's Code for Sustainable Homes takes of provision for the offsetting of embodied energy in house building. [295538]

John Healey: Embodied energy is addressed in two of the nine categories in the Code for Sustainable Homes:

the materials category rewards use of construction materials with lower embodied energy; and

the management category encourages construction sites to measure and reduce energy consumption.

Unitary Authority Status

20. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will authorise the holding of a local referendum in cases where a shire district or borough council seeks the status of a unitary authority. [295540]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The process by which a local authority in a two-tier area can become a unitary authority is set out in Part 1 the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It requires one or more local authorities for the whole, or part of an area, to make a unitary proposal in response to an invitation from the Secretary of State.

The statute does not provide for a referendum.

Business Rates

21. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will undertake an impact assessment for the 2010 business rates revaluation; and if he will make a statement. [295541]

Barbara Follett: Regular revaluations are a standard part of the business rates system and are required by statute. Therefore, no impact assessment has been undertaken by my Department on the overall implementation of the 2010 business rates revaluation. An impact assessment on the proposed transitional arrangements scheme for revaluation 2010 was published on 8 July.

Homelessness Street Counts

22. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department uses in undertaking homelessness street counts. [295542]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities evaluate the extent of rough sleeping within their area in accordance with the methodology on street counts set out in CLG's 'Guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping—2007 revision', which was developed in conjunction with the voluntary sector. The total number of rough sleepers found on street counts is published each September.

Rent Equalisation

24. **Stephen Pound:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his assessment is of the likely effect on social housing tenants of a policy of rent equalisation; and if he will make a statement. [295544]

John Healey: Under the Government's established rent restructuring policy established in 2001, rents charged for similar properties in similar areas in the two social housing sectors are expected to converge. It is designed to ensure equality and fairness for tenants in the housing association and local authority sectors.

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning controls there are on the erection of mobile telephone masts. [295638]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: Full details of planning policy on telecommunications are set out in planning policy guidance 8.

Business Improvement Districts: Scotland

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has responsibility for arrangements for co-ordinating policy on business improvement districts in Scotland with the Scottish Executive. [295250]

Barbara Follett: Policy on business rates, including on business improvement districts, is a devolved matter. The Department therefore has no responsibility for arrangements for co-ordinating policy on business improvement districts in Scotland with the Scottish Executive.

Council Housing: Tenants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1109W, on council housing: tenants, if he will estimate the number of families required to move home by a local authority following the expiry of the right to statutory succession to a local authority property. [295339]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has no plans to make any such estimate.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296181]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Mail services for the Department's Headquarters building are provided under the Integrated Facilities Management contract with MITIE which runs until July 2011. MITIE currently use Royal Mail for despatch of national mail items and Corporate Mailing Services (CMS) for international mail items under sub-contract arrangements they have in place with those companies.

Disabled Facilities Grant

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken by local authorities to deliver projects for *(a)* veterans and *(b)* other disabled persons funded through the disabled facilities grant. [295612]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Responsibility for the management and delivery of the programme rests with local housing authorities. As a mandatory grant, Communities and Local Government expects these important services to be prioritised and delivered within the legal time frame. The regulations that govern the disabled facilities grant programme are clear about how long anyone should wait for a grant and are triggered by the receipt of a valid disabled facilities grant application. A decision on whether or not to award the grant must be made within six months. The grant must then be paid by the authority either on completion of the works or by a date specified in the decision letter, whichever is sooner. That date must be no longer than 12 months from the date of the application for grant.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Welsh Assembly Government has been consulted on the appointment of any Commissioners to the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [296074]

John Healey: We have agreed the following process with the Welsh Assembly Government: Commissioners are recruited through open competition and appointed by the Secretary of State, once appointments are made WAG ministers select a number of appointed Commissioners with an understanding of Welsh issues. At least one of these Commissioners will be involved in considering applications for development wholly or partly in Wales. We intend that this selection will happen early next year following the next round of commissioner recruitment, ahead of 1 March which will be the first date from which the IPC will be able formally to accept applications.

Local Government: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department undertook an impact assessment in relation to the changes made to the Code of Conduct on Local Authority Publicity before those changes came into effect; and whether an assessment of the effectiveness of the changes has been undertaken. [294513]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As part of the changes to council governance arrangements, in particular the introduction of elected mayors, revisions were made in 2001 to the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. These are the only changes which have been made to the code to date and have been subject to neither an impact assessment nor a subsequent assessment of effectiveness.

However, there have been two consultations on whether and how the code might be revised, the latest being earlier this year on which over 300 representations have been received. We will be publishing our response to the consultation later this year, but the representations do not reveal any widespread concern about council freesheets and newsletters.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations his Department has received on the effects of the operation of local authority newspapers on commercially produced newspapers in the same area. [294523]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A representative of the Newspaper Society, which represents and promotes the interests of Britain's regional and local media, wrote to me about this issue in August.

All council publicity, including newsletters and freesheets, is subject to the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity, to which local authorities must have regard. There have been two consultations on whether and how the code might be revised, the latest being earlier this year. We will be publishing our response to the consultation later this year, but the representations do not reveal any widespread concern about council freesheets and newsletters.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments were on the Rating List with special category code *(a)* 227, *(b)* 226 and *(c)* 303 in each of the last five years, according to records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292744]

Barbara Follett: The number of hereditaments in England with a special category (SCAT) code of *(b)* 226 (Public Houses/Pub Restaurants (National Scheme)) *(a)* 227 (Public Houses/Pub Restaurants (Inc. Lodge) (National Scheme)) and *(c)* 303 (Wine Bars) as at the appropriate dates is as follows:

England	*226*	*227*	*303*
1 April 2005	47,766	318	999
1 April 2006	47,398	335	1,020
1 April 2007	46,935	341	1,032
1 April 2008	46,417	347	1,023
1 April 2009	45,802	351	1,023

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1131W, on non-domestic rates, whether the overall business rate tax yield in 2010-11 will be reduced in cash terms as a consequence of the -1.4 per cent. level of Retail Price Index inflation. [295731]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Under schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 the increases in the business rates multipliers each year are capped by the previous September's RPI. Under the same legislation, the multipliers will also be adjusted to ensure that the overall tax yield does not increase as a result of the 2010 revaluation. The September 2009 RPI of -1.4 per cent will exert a downward pressure on the multipliers and on 2010-11 rates bills, reducing the overall tax yield in cash terms.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 16 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1131W, on non-domestic rates, whether he expects the downward pressure on multipliers as a result of the September 2009 Retail Price Index rate to result in an actual reduction in the multiplier of 1.4 per cent. in addition to the decrease in the multiplier due to the 2010 revaluation. [295732]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The multipliers are set in accordance with schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The increases in the small business rate multiplier each year are capped by the previous September's RPI. Under the same legislation, the multipliers will also be adjusted to ensure that the overall tax yield does not increase as a result of the 2010 revaluation.

The national non-domestic multiplier, as in previous years, will be found by adding to the small business multiplier an amount to recover the cost of the small business rate relief scheme. The Government have no plans to amend the way that the multipliers are calculated.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 16 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1131W, on non-domestic rates, what the *(a)* standard and *(b)* small business rate multiplier in 2010-11 in England is; on what date it was set; and whether it incorporates the 1.4 per cent reduction as a consequence of the September Retail Price Index rate. [295734]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The multipliers are set in accordance with schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The increases in the small business rate multiplier each year are capped by the previous September's RPI. Under the same legislation, the multipliers will also be adjusted to ensure that the overall tax yield does not increase as a result of the 2010 revaluation.

The national non-domestic multiplier, as in previous years, will be found by adding to the small business multiplier an amount to recover the cost of the small business rate relief scheme. The Government have no plans to amend the way that the multipliers are calculated.

The Department will publish the provisional multipliers in due course and these will be confirmed after the Local Government Settlement is confirmed in the New Year.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 16 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1131W, on non-domestic rates, whether the estimate of *(a)* 41.3 pence for the small business multiplier in 2010 and *(b)* 41.7 pence for the national non-domestic multiplier in 2010 cited on page 7 of his Department's consultation paper on transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England will be revised downwards as a consequence of the -1.4 per cent. level of Retail Price Index inflation. [295735]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Under schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 the increases in the small business rate multiplier each year are capped by the previous September's RPI. Therefore the September 2009 RPI of -1.4 per cent will exert a downward pressure on the multipliers cited in the Department's consultation on transitional arrangements.

The national non-domestic multiplier, as in previous years, will be found by adding to the small business multiplier an amount to recover the cost of the small business rate relief scheme.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-domestic Rates: Religious Buildings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and

Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W, on non-domestic rates: religious buildings, in respect of which faith communities or religions the Registrar General has certified premises as places of religious worship. [294777]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

The Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 provides for places of meeting for religious worship to be certified to the Registrar General. Under this Act the Registrar General records all places of meeting for religious worship certified to him. There are approximately 30,000 places of meeting for religious worship certified under the Act. The denominations are recorded as follows:

Roman Catholic
Methodist
Congregationalist
Baptist
United Reformed
Calvinistic Methodist
Brethren
Salvation Army
Unitarian.
Society of Friends
Jehovah's Witness
Other Christian bodies
Jews
Muslim
Sikh
Hindus
Undenominational
Buddhists of the New Kadampa Traditional
Baha'is
Subud Britain
Valmiks
Followers of Guru Das
Nirankaries
Ravidasia
Aetherius society
Devotees of Krishna
Friends of Western Buddhist order
Antiochian Orthodox
Congregation of Yahweh
Das Dharam
Gujarati
Shree Swaminarayan Siddhant Sajivan Mandal
Shri guru Ravidasia community
Theosophists
Ukraine Autocephalic
Universal Order of Thiis
Unsectarian
Who object to be designated by any distinctive appellation
Zen Buddhists
Buddhists
Zoroastrians
Brahma kumaris
Jains
Universal Confluence of Yoga and Vedanta Luminar
Manjushri
Nirankaries
Raman
Ramgarhia
Radhan Soami Satsang Beas-British Isles
Sant Mat
Sathya Sai Baba Devotees
Sufis
Sukyo Mahikari
Swaminarayans
Zen
Anoopam
Kshatryna Sabna London Bhagat Namdev Mission
Maktar Tarighat Ovesyi Shamagh Soudi
Navnat Vanit
Anjuman-e-Mohibban-e-Ahlalbait
Antiochian Orthodox Church
Byelorussion Autocephalic Orthodox
Disciples of Baba Gobind Daa Ji
Eikoko Iesu No Mitama Kyokai
Ekniwas

Pakistan

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Dewsbury (Mr. Malik) had discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office prior to his meetings with the *(a)* Prime Minister and *(b)* President of Pakistan during his recent visit to that country. [290657]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* I travelled to Pakistan privately in August. While there I took the opportunity to meet Mr. Syed Yousef Gilani, the Prime Minister of Pakistan. I did not meet the President of Pakistan. I was in contact with FCO staff in Pakistan about this meeting.

Travel to and from Pakistan, and domestic flights in Pakistan were paid for by me. Secure travel by road was provided by the Government of Pakistan.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Dewsbury (Mr. Malik), travelled to Pakistan in an official capacity in August 2009 to meet the President and Prime Minister of that country. [292806]

Mr. Malik: I travelled to Pakistan privately in August. While there I took the opportunity to meet Mr. Syed Yousef Gilani, the Prime Minister of Pakistan. I did not meet the President of Pakistan. I was in contact with FCO staff in Pakistan about this meeting.

Travel to and from Pakistan, and domestic flights in Pakistan were paid for by me. Secure travel by road was provided by the Government of Pakistan.

Parking: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of the Planning Inspectorate is on provision for maximum parking standards in new residential developments; and if he will make a statement. [294968]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government's national policy on residential parking is set out in Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (2006) and Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (2001). PPG13 is clear that local authority policies in preparing their development plans should set maximum levels of parking for broad classes of development, including residential and non-residential development, and that there should be no minimum standards for development, other than parking for disabled people. PPS3 asks local authorities to develop residential parking policies for their areas taking account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently. This has been deliberately devolved to local authorities so they can make the right choices for their local areas, in consultation with their local communities.

The flexibility given to local authorities in PPS3 is consistent with the objectives of PPG13, to set their own residential parking policies taking account of the expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the implications of the High Court ruling of City and District Council of St Albans *v.* Secretary of State for Communications and Local Government, [2009] EWHC 1280 (Admin) for the *(a)* East of England, *(b)* South East, *(c)* South West and *(d)* West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategies; what plans there are to undertake new environmental impact assessments; and if he will make a statement. [294700]

Mr. Ian Austin: In the east of England the High Court remitted the housing policies in respect of two districts to the Secretary of State and further work on the sustainability appraisal in respect of those policies is underway. The rest of the east of England RSS stands as part of the statutory development plan.

In the south east we are considering legal challenges in respect of the sustainability appraisal of housing policies two districts. The rest of the south east RSS stands as part of the statutory development plan.

Proposed changes to the south west plan were consulted on last year, however following the east of England High Court ruling, publication of the final RSS has been delayed pending some further work on the sustainability appraisal.

The independent panel report on the draft west midlands RSS was published in September 2009 and the Government are currently considering proposed changes and completing the accompanying sustainability appraisal.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what bursary schemes his Department makes available to postgraduate students on *(a)* spatial planning and *(b)* other planning courses; how many students received such payments under each bursary in the last 12 months; and how much his Department spent on each scheme in each region in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [295381]

(2) how many *(a)* spatial planning and *(b)* other planning postgraduate students who received payments from bursary schemes provided by his Department went on to work in planning (i) in the public sector and (ii) in the private sector in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [295382]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The 16 universities listed as follows offer Royal Town Planning Institute accredited courses and are thus eligible for the CLG bursary scheme.

In 2008-09 92 out of 105 possible bursaries at 15 universities were awarded at a total cost of £894,062.

In 2009-10 it is estimated that 154 will be awarded out of 176 bursaries at 16 universities at an estimated cost of £1,496,033.

The allocations for each university are set out in the following table:

			Number of students receiving bursary	
University	*Region*	*Course*	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*[2]
Leeds Metropolitan	YH	MA Town & Regional Planning	7	11
Sheffield	YH	MA Town & Regional Planning	7	11
Sheffield Hallam	YH	MSc Urban & Regional Planning	7	11
Liverpool JMU	NW	MSc Environmental Planning	4	7
Liverpool	NW	Master of Civic Design	6	11
Manchester	NW	Master of Planning	7	11
Oxford Brookes	SE	MSc Spatial Planning	7	11
Kingston	SE	Planning and Sustainability	1	4
Reading	SE	Development Planning	7	11
London South Bank	L	MA Planning Policy and Practice	6	9
UCL	L	MSc Spatial Planning or MSc International Planning	7	11
Westminster	L	MA Urban & Regional Planning	5	11
West of England (UWE)	SW	MA Town and Country Planning	7	11
Newcastle	NE	MSc Town Planning	7	11
Birmingham City	WM	MA Spatial Planning	7	11
Anglia Ruskin	E	MSc Town Planning	n/a	2
Total			92	154

[1] 2008-09 Bursary = £9,240 (£3,240 fees, £6,000 stipend)

[2] 2009-10 Bursary = £9,390 (£3,390 fees, £6,000 stipend)

Students have only been required to sign public service contracts since 2008-09 and as such we do not, as yet, have figures for the number of bursary recipients who went on to work (i) in the public sector and (ii) in the private sector. The 2008-09 students have only recently graduated and we will shortly be contacting them to inquire about their employment status.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* UK-born and *(b)* non-UK born applicants were allocated social housing in each of the last 10 years. [295687]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1140W.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 835W, on departmental buildings, in what formats records are held of expenditure on the renovation and refurbishment of 10 Downing Street; and whether copies of suppliers' invoices are held. [295048]

Angela E. Smith: Expenditure records are held on the Cabinet Office Accounting System. Renovation works are procured through the Cabinet Office Total Facilities Management Provider. The Cabinet Office holds invoices from the Total Facilities Management Provider. These do not show project level information.

Admiralty House

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will make it her policy to place on the rental market empty Ministerial flats in Admiralty House. [292965]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 15 October 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 770W.

Childbirth

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what estimate she has made of the likely number of births in each strategic health authority region in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [295617]

(2) how many births there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in 2008-09. [295700]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions on the number of births in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in 2008-09 (295700), and the estimate of the number of likely births in each strategic health authority in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 (295617)

The latest figures available for Strategic Health Authorities are for 2008 calendar year and were published on the ONS website in May 2009:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Table_5.xls

Part of this table is reproduced below and shows the number of live births in 2008 to mothers who were usually resident in England and in each Strategic Health Authority within England.

The table below also includes the projected number of live births in each strategic health authority in the year to mid-2009 and mid-2010. These data are taken from the 2006-based Subnational Population Projections published on 12 June 2008, and are the most recent subnational projections available. These are demographic trend-based projections that indicate what the number of births is likely to be if recently observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration were to continue.

Live births, England and strategic health authorities

Number

	Live births[1] in 2008	*Live births Year to mid-2009*	*Live births Year to mid-2010*
England	672,809	672,880	678,914
Strategic health authorities			
North East	30,217	30,215	30,421
North West	88,167	87,398	87,984
Yorkshire and The Humber	66,353	67,361	68,335
East Midlands	54,192	54,182	54,929
West Midlands	71,726	71,530	72,107
East of England	71,738	71,470	72,257
London	127,651	129,236	130,049
South East Coast	51,565	51,493	51,826
South Central	52,458	51,835	52,234
South West	58,742	58,160	58,772

[1] Live births by area of usual residence of mother.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) which companies are under contract to her Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires; [296179]

(2) which companies are under contract to No. 10 Downing Street to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296095]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The vast majority of mail services for the Cabinet Office (including the Prime Minister's Office and the Emergency Planning College (EPC) in York) are provided by Royal Mail.

Lone Parents: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate she has made of the number of single parent families in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London. [295561]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, what recent estimate has made of the number of single parent families in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (b) the London Borough of Bexley and (c) Greater London. (295561)

The number and type of families in the UK has been estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). The table below shows 2008 estimates from the APS for the geographical areas requested. Estimates are for all lone parent families, and these families may contain children of any age, including adult children.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families (thousand)*
Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency	4
London Borough of Bexley	12
London	445

Source:
APS January to December 2008, not seasonally adjusted

Sarah Brown

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what arrangements are in place to provide civil service support to Mrs. Gordon Brown. [294789]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 22 October 2009]*: In line with established practice, the Prime Minister's spouse is provided with administrative support as necessary when carrying out public duties.

Teenage Pregnancy

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* number and *(b)* rate of under-18 year old conceptions was in (a) England and (b) each local authority ward in England for the period (i) 2003 to 2005 and (ii) 2004 to 2006. [295890]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question what the (a) number and (b) rate of under-18 year old conceptions was in (a) England and (b) each local authority ward in England for the period (i) 2003 to 2005 and (ii) 2004 to 2006. (295890)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the (a) numbers and (b) rates of conceptions to women aged under 18, for England from 2003 to 2006.

Figures on conceptions of women aged under 18 are not published for local authority wards in order to protect the privacy of individuals.

Table 1: Conceptions to women aged under 18[1], England 2003-06

	Conceptions	
	(a) Number	*(b) Rate per 1,000*[2]
2003	39,553	42.2
2004	39,593	41.6
2005	39,804	41.3
2006	39,170	40.6

[1] Under 18 years at estimated date of conception.

[2] Number of conceptions to women under 18 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council: Manpower

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people the British Council employs in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* overseas. [296014]

Chris Bryant: As published in the Annual Report for the British Council (2008-09) the numbers of permanent staff employed are as follows:

(a) In the UK—1,094

(b) Overseas—6,390 (including 1,815 teachers)

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports his Department has received on the human rights situation in Burma; and whether he plans to impose sanctions against the Burmese authorities. [295185]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The UK remains deeply concerned at the human rights situation in Burma. It is evident from the latest Report to the General Assembly by the UN Rapporteur, Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, that systematic and appalling abuses remain unchecked and that arbitrary arrests and the sentencing of opposition figures to long prison terms continues.

The most prominent example is that of Aung San Suu Kyi, but his report also draws attention to the plight of the more than 2,100 other political prisoners who remain in detention. EU sanctions have been in place against Burma since 1996, but following the sentence imposed on Aung San Suu Kyi on 11 August this year, the EU agreed to a further set of sanctions intended specifically to target the Burmese regime's economic interests, including a travel ban on those members of the judiciary responsible for the verdict.

These measures came into force on 14 August 2009 and can leave the regime in no doubt about our determination to see real democracy established and human rights respected in Burma. Their objective is to target those individuals and entities that are most closely linked to the regime's misrule, rather than punishing the Burmese population as a whole.

China: Official Engagements

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place on his Department's website the minutes of his discussions on Tibet during his recent visit to China. [295486]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no plans to publish these minutes. However I made a public statement about my visit to Tibet which can be found at the following website address:

http://ukinchina.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/?view=PressR&id=20913651

In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office published an article on Tibet on the Guardian website which can be found at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=20943204

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to The Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295724]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have any plans at present to secure accreditation of the Department's telephone information lines to The Helplines Association's quality standard. However, we are continually seeking to improve the levels of service we provide to the public, and will investigate the benefits of such accreditation.

EU: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on involvement of young people in the UK in EU activities. [293807]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with EU counterparts on this issue.

However, other Secretaries of State have had such discussions, for example on the involvement of young people in EU education and training programmes. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have also discussed the involvement of young people in EU activities in the commission working group on EU communications.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further steps his Department has taken against human trafficking since the entry into force in the UK of the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings in April 2009. [294037]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

We continue to make good progress in our efforts to combat human trafficking. On 19 October we published the 2009 Update to the United Kingdom Action Plan on tackling human trafficking in which we introduced 10 new action points including one focused on the development of intelligence-led prevention strategies in relation to the 2012 Olympics.

We are also in the process of negotiating a revised European Framework Decision on human trafficking and will continue to work with international partners to further develop a collaborative response across the European Union.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have received requests to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [293569]

(2) whether he has received a request to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry. [293570]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1210W.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to *(a)* the Government of Israel, *(b)* other countries and *(c)* international agencies regarding Israel's nuclear weapons. [295256]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are clear in our call, both privately and publicly, on Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state. We also call on Israel to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Permanent Under Secretary, Peter Ricketts, emphasised our commitment to a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction in meetings during his visit to Israel earlier this month.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason he has not yet replied to the letter dated 20 July 2009 from the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee in respect of legal matters pertaining to the Lisbon Treaty. [292954]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* Ministers were considering how best to reply to the letter and the reply was sent on 13 October 2009.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the threat to peace in the Middle East posed by Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. [295257]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 757, the UK has voted consistently in support of a nuclear-free Middle East as part of a drive for nuclear disarmament around the world.

We continue to believe that a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, delivering a viable Palestinian State alongside a secure Israel, is a critical part of achieving peace and security in the region.

Mordechai Vanunu

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the situation of Mordechai Vanunu. [295258]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We raised Mr Vanunu's case with the Israeli Government on a number of occasions during his detention. After Mr Vanunu was released, we then raised the conditions of his release with the Israeli Government.

We will continue to follow the case and should we judge that the circumstances have changed to mean that an intervention by the UK is likely to achieve significant movement than we will consider making further representations.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293475]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no record of its non-departmental public bodies having sent representatives to attend any political party conferences in their professional capacity in 2009.

Passports: Embassies

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many emergency passports have been issued through consular services in each of the last five years. [294384]

Chris Bryant: The number of Emergency Passports issued for each of the last five financial years is provided in the following table:

	Number
2008-09	10,806
2007-08	11,956
2006-07	11,138
2005-06	9,212
2004-05	11,485

Thailand: Prisoners

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth (1) Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Thailand on the trial of Utain Dungnoi for the murder of Richard Collins; [295767]

(2) whether he has made representations to the Government of Thailand on the release of Utain Dungnoi on bail pending appeal; and if he will make a statement. [295768]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our officials at our Embassy in Bangkok have passed on a letter from Yvonne Hart, Richard Collins' mother, outlining her concerns about the ongoing process.

However, as the hon. Member knows, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office cannot interfere in the Thai legal system, just as we would not allow a foreign state's interference in British legal proceedings.

Turkey

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Turkey on its non-compliance with the Ankara Protocol; and if he will make a statement. [293718]

Chris Bryant: Ministers and officials across Government have frequent contact with Turkish counterparts on all aspects of Turkey's EU accession process, including discussion of the Additional Ankara Protocol, where we urge Turkey to take forward its implementation. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did so most recently with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on 25 September 2009.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the implications for the proposals for Turkish accession to the EU at the 2009 review of Turkey's non-compliance with the Ankara protocol; and if he will make a statement. [293719]

Chris Bryant: The European Commission's 2009 Progress Report notes that Turkey has not fully implemented the Additional Ankara Protocol, and states it is now urgent that Turkey fulfils its obligation to ensure implementation of the Protocol. The Government agree it is important that Turkey takes forward the protocol's implementation.

Visits Abroad

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries *(a)* he has and *(b)* his Department's Ministers have visited on official capacity since November 2008; on what dates each such visit took place; and if he will make a statement. [294545]

Chris Bryant: The Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas travel by Ministers costing in excess of £500.

A list of all overseas visits undertaken by Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 was published in July 2009. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

A list of overseas visits undertaken by Ministers in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 will be published in due course. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Moroccan counterpart on alleged human rights violations in Western Sahara. [295879]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the human dimension of the Western Sahara conflict with the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Mr. Fassi Fihri, when they met in June this year. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have continued this dialogue with their Moroccan counterparts, encouraging the need for openness and transparency as a way of building confidence between the parties to the conflict.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 18 years have been treated for alcohol-related health problems in the Milton Keynes area in each of the last five years. [295889]

Gillian Merron: The number of children under the age of 18 years resident in Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust who were admitted to hospital with an alcohol-related condition in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

	Number
2004-05	87
2005-06	71
2006-07[1]	39
2007-08	63
2008-09[2]	54

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[1] There appears to be a shortfall of data from Milton Keynes General Hospital Trust in 2006-07. The figure for this year should therefore be treated with caution.

[2] Provisional information.

Notes:

1. Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed: Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

3. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

4. Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

5. Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

6. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

7. Assignment of episodes to years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Appointment Reminder Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts operate appointment reminder schemes. [295600]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect information centrally on which primary care trusts operate appointment reminder schemes.

Local national health service organisations make their own arrangements for operating appointment reminder schemes such as text messages to remind patients of upcoming appointments.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department next plans to review the level of payments made to people who have received contaminated blood supplies. [295500]

Gillian Merron: The Government are committed to reviewing the Skipton Fund, which makes payments to individuals infected with hepatitis-C as a result of receiving contaminated blood and blood products, in 2014. The Department announced an increase in payments to those infected with HIV as a result of receiving contaminated blood and blood products with effect from 20 May 2009, and there are no current plans to review those payments.

Care Homes: Food

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 368-69W, on nutrition, for what reasons the final report of the National Action Plan Delivery Board was not published by the end of 2008; when he expects that report to be published; and what assessment he has made of the effects of the difference in such dates upon patient care. [295649]

Phil Hope: The Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board is independent of Government. The Department therefore had no input into the writing of the board's report. The report took longer to produce than envisaged and was finally submitted to the Department in July 2009. It is now being considered by ministers. We expect the report will be published later this year.

The delay in publishing the report has no impact on patient care. The report outlines the progress made in implementing the actions identified in the nutrition action plan.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of care homes for *(a)* younger adults and *(b)* older people met or exceeded (i) National Minimum Standard 8, (ii) National Minimum Standard 15 and (iii) both standards in each year since 2002-03. [295609]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that the percentages of care homes meeting or exceeding the requested national minimum standards in each year between 2002-03 and 2008-09—the latest year for which information is available—were as shown in the following tables.

Percentages of services meeting or exceeding individual national minimum standards (NMS)—care homes for younger adults—since 2002-03

NMS	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
8. Participation	65	82	89	90	90	91	91
15. Relationships	91	95	97	98	98	98	98
Both standards met or exceeded	61	76	84	82	79	78	76

Note:

Percentages are based on the most recent score for each standard as at 31 March in each year. The year shown is not necessarily the year of inspection; not every standard is inspected every year and not every service is inspected annually.

Source:

CQC database

Percentages of services meeting or exceeding individual national minimum standards (NMS)—care homes for older people—since 2002-03

NMS	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
8. Healthcare	73	78	78	78	79	83	86
15. Meals and mealtimes	78	82	84	85	86	88	89
Both standards met or exceeded	62	67	70	69	71	76	79

Note:
Percentages are based on the most recent score for each standard as at 31 March in each year. The year shown is not necessarily the year of inspection; not every standard is inspected every year and not every service is inspected annually.
Source:
CQC database

Community Care

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults in each age band received support under section 47 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [295858]

Phil Hope: The information is contained in the following table.

The total number of clients aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funded community based services, by age band, as at 31 March

Rounded

		Community based services		
At 31 March	*Age 18 to 64*	*Age 65 to 74*	*Age 75 and over*	*Total*
2007[1]	376,300	131,700	514,800	1,022,900
2008	395,000	139,100	522,300	1,056,300
2009[2]	401,400	135,800	509,900	1,047,100

[1] In 2007 "overnight respite—client's home" was included within community based services provided to clients, from 2008 all respite care is now recorded as a service for carers rather than clients and is therefore not included in this data.
[2] Data for 2008-09 are provisional.
Source:
Referral, Assessments and Packages of Care form P2s

Deficiency Diseases: Young People

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of scurvy were reported in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and how many such cases were in persons under 18. [295601]

Gillian Merron: The figures on the number of cases of scurvy reported are not held centrally.

The number of finished consultant episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of scurvy is shown in the following table.

The figures provided cover those patients treated in hospital with a diagnosis of scurvy at the national level.

Count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[1] where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis[2] of 'scurvy'[3], activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	FCEs[1]
2007-08	94
2006-07	101
2005-06	68
2004-05	61
2003-04	72

[1] *Finished Consultant* [illegible]
A FCE is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. It should be noted that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
[2] Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis. These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
[3] *Scurvy:*
ICD10 Code E54.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Dementia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the results of his Department's review of anti-psychotic use in dementia care. [295602]

Phil Hope: The results of the review of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia will be published in November.

Douglas House

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future of Douglas House residential home for people with severe mental disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [295169]

Phil Hope: Government policy is clear that everyone in England should have the opportunity to benefit from good support to live in the community.

"Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", published in November 2006, set out that, as community-based settings enable a greater degree of independence and inclusion and better health outcomes, all NHS campuses should close by 2010. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

We are advised that the chief executive of Bournemouth and Poole Primary Care Trust wrote to the hon. Member in detail on 21 September 2009 in response to his letter regarding concerns raised over the closure of Douglas House.

Haematology

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to review the national haematology guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [295042]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not generally issue guidance on haematology. Professional guidance is usually provided by the British Committee for Standards in Haematology.

In 2003, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance on Improving Outcomes in Haematological Cancers. This guidance makes recommendations on the organisation of services for patients with haematological cancers. NICE has not yet set a date for review of this guidance.

Health Services: Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances illegal immigrants may obtain treatment under the National Health Service. [291971]

Phil Hope: Any person who wishes to receive national health service primary medical services can apply to a local general practice to register as a patient or as a temporary resident. However, under their contracts with their primary care trust the general practice can, where they have reasonable non-discriminatory grounds, decline an application, for example if they are not accepting new patients or because the prospective patient does not live within the practice boundary. Where an application is declined, the general practice must nevertheless provide as a term of their contracts any immediately necessary treatment for a period of up to 14 days free of charge.

Entitlement to free NHS hospital treatment is based on lawful and settled residence in the United Kingdom. Illegal immigrants are therefore subject to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, which set out a number of exemption from charge categories. Illegal immigrants are not exempt from charges except for certain services that are free to all, including treatment given inside an accident and emergency department or for certain infectious diseases.

Treatment which is clinically considered to be immediately necessary must never be withheld or delayed, although charges will still apply to illegal immigrants. Further, treatment that is clinically considered urgent enough that it cannot await the patient's return home, must also be provided, although hospitals should attempt to secure payment during the period before treatment is provided. Non-urgent treatment that can await the person's return home should not be given unless payment is received in advance.

Health Services: Voluntary Work

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the proposed strategy to support volunteering in health and social care. [295610]

Phil Hope: Building on last year's consultation "Towards a strategy to support volunteering in health and social care: Consultation", the Department has been working with stakeholders to agree a shared vision for volunteering in the context of the Government's wider strategy for improvement and reform across the health and social care system. We anticipate publishing a high-level strategy to support this in the new year.

HIV Infection

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that future funding for social services provision for HIV positive people takes account of *(a)* inflation and *(b)* predicted numbers of people diagnosed with HIV in the future. [295563]

Gillian Merron: Following the 2007 comprehensive spending review, the AIDS Support Grant, which provides a contribution towards the social care and support of people with HIV, was increased from £16.5 million, to £19.8 million in 2008-09, £21.8 million in 2009-10 and £25.5 million in 2010-11. Decisions on allocations beyond this period have not yet been made.

The AIDS Support Grant is allocated to individual authorities based on their HIV caseloads, updated annually, with a weighting of 30 per cent. towards women and children affected or infected by HIV. This recognises the increasing pressure of HIV among these groups.

Home Care Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 808-09W, on home care services, which central budgets he plans to reprioritise. [295613]

Phil Hope: Decisions on reprioritisation have yet to be taken, but the Department is considering savings from lower use of management consultancy and advertising, and slower growth in lower priority research budgets.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the use of cognitive behavioural therapy programmes in treating each category of mental health issue. [295901]

Phil Hope: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has made a prior assessment of the outcomes of using cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) by the national health service before making any recommendations about its use by the NHS in treating mental illness.

NICE currently recommends that the NHS offers CBT as a treatment for antenatal and postnatal mental health problems; antisocial personality disorder; anxiety; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; bipolar disorder; borderline personality disorder; dementia; depression in adults, children and young people; drug misuse; bulimia; obsessive compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; self-harming; and, schizophrenia.

We are increasing the availability of CBT in primary care through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT). Our plan is to have trained 3,600 more therapists who will help to provide 900,000 more people with access to psychological therapies by 2010-11. Of those completing treatment 50 per cent. are expected to recover.

All IAPT services are required to collect routine clinical outcome data at every session, so that clinical teams can evaluate the effectiveness of the service and so that patients can see and discuss their progress with their therapist. The data also enables primary care trusts and practice based commissioners to commission psychological therapy services for the outcomes which they are expected to achieve.

New IAPT services collect the IAPT minimum data set, and a national data standard is currently being developed to enable the national collation of this data by 2011.

NHS: Compensation

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to determine ex-gratia payments to NHS patients who have experienced adverse consequences of NHS treatment. [295036]

Ann Keen: Chapter Five of the NHS Manual for Accounts contains guidance to the National Health Service on Losses and Special Payments, which includes the making of ex gratia payments. A copy of the current version of Chapter Five has been placed in the Library. An online version of the 2008-09 Manual is available from:

www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/finman.nsf/4db79df91d978b6c00256728004f9d6b/95096061ec2c0feb802573bf0055e962?OpenDocument

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of invoices paid by NHS hospitals within 10 days in the latest period for which figures are available. [295598]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We do not currently collect such performance data.

However, David Nicholson, NHS chief executive, wrote to all NHS trust chief executives on 21 October 2008 asking them to examine and review existing payment practices and payment performance and to move as closely as possible to the 10-day payment commitment that has been set for Government Departments wherever practical. This message was reiterated in a further letter to NHS trust chief executives from David Nicholson on 18 May 2009.

NHS prompt payment performance against the 30 day payment target is reported in annual accounts. The 2008-09 accounts for NHS trusts recorded an 84 per cent. achievement against the 30 day payment target for non-NHS payments.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 176W, on NHS: negligence, how much was spent in total on *(a)* claimant costs, *(b)* defence costs and *(c)* damages for (i) the closed claims in which claimant costs exceeded damages and (ii) all closed claims in each year. [294352]

Ann Keen: Following an internal review by the NHS Litigation Authority, an error was detected in Table 2 of the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 736-37W, on NHS: Negligence. The following tables correct that error and provide the additional data requested.

Table 1: Payments made on clinical negligence claims where claimant costs were greater than the damages paid on claims closed 2004-05 to 2008-09 as at 30 August 2009

£

Year of closure	*Damages paid*	*Defence costs paid*	*Claimant costs paid*
2004-05	9,824,545	8,591,362	17,105,723
2005-06	10,957,214	8,475,960	19,766,927
2006-07	11,857,076	8,345,403	20,668,200
2007-08	18,385,285	11,371,170	31,878,502
2008-09	16,949,494	9,786,706	31,553,110
Total	67,973,614	46,570,601	120,992,471

Table 2: Payments made on all other clinical negligence claims closed 2004-05 to 2008-09 as at 30 August 2009

£

Year of closure	*Damages paid*	*Defence costs paid*	*Claimant costs paid*
2004-05	358,508,722	43,504,736	58,017,881
2005-06	353,351,141	39,468,081	60,943,948
2006-07	275,848,011	33,366,925	53,294,121
2007-08	332,052,942	40,111,830	67,590,234
2008-09	289,238,325	36,480,285	69,616,770
Total	1,608,999,141	192,931,858	309,462,963

Table 3: Payments made on all clinical negligence claims closed 2004-05 to 2008-09 as at 30 August 2009

£

Year of closure	*Damages paid*	*Defence costs paid*	*Claimant costs paid*
2004-05	368,333,267	52,096,098	75,123,604
2005-06	364,308,355	47,944,041	80,710,875
2006-07	287,705,087	41,712,419	73,962,321
2007-08	350,438,228	51,483,000	99,468,736
2008-09	306,187,819	46,266,991	101,169,880
Total	1,676,972,755	239,502,548	430,455,434

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many unsuccessful clinical negligence claims were brought against the NHS in each year since 1997-98 for which figures are available; and how much unsuccessful claimants spent in *(a)* defence costs and *(b)* claimant costs in each year. [294360]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) only records data relating to members of its schemes, which include all primary care trusts, national health service trusts and NHS foundation trusts.

For unsuccessful claims, not all defence costs are recovered from claimants. This may be because the claimant was funded by the Legal Services Commission or if the claimant does not have the resource to pay costs. The NHSLA does not specifically record defence costs recovered from claimants and to obtain this information would be at disproportionate cost. However, as an alternative, the NHSLA have provided information on defence costs of unsuccessful claims in the following table.

Defence Costs paid on all clinical negligence claims closed 2004-05 to 2008-09 with nil damages as at 30 August 2009

Closure	*Number of claims*	*Defence costs paid (£)*
2004-05	4,033	13,166,805
2005-06	3,049	9,320,411

Closure	*Number of claims*	*Defence costs paid (£)*
2006-07	2,910	9,183,962
2007-08	2,650	10,748,887
2008-09	2,330	8,112,917
Total	14,971	50,532,671

The NHSLA does not record data relating to claimant costs in unsuccessful cases as it does not make payment on these costs and the claimant is not obliged to disclose the information to the defendant.

NHS: Publications

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department's publication 1999-2009: A decade of excellence cost to produce; and how many copies were made. [295603]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: "1999-2009: A decade of excellence" was published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in July 2009. The cost to produce the document and number of copies made is a matter for NICE as an independent body.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* other NHS trusts did not meet the Care Quality Commission's (i) core standard C15a and (ii) core standard C15b in its 2008-09 annual health check. [295623]

Phil Hope: For the 2008-09 annual health check the Care Quality Commission reported that all primary care trusts were compliant with C15a and C15b.

Two national health service trusts not compliant with C15a were Manchester mental health and social care NHS trust, and South Downs health NHS trust.

Seven NHS trusts not compliant with C15b were:

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust, and
South Downs Health NHS Trust.

Nottingham University Hospital

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on allegations of misreporting of admissions to the accident and emergency department of Nottingham University Hospital; and what assessment has been made of the *(a)* level of misreporting and *(b)* reasons for such misreporting. [295401]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is aware of this issue. Any substantiated case of misreporting is serious. All data received by the Department should be certified by national health service trusts and chief executives as accurate.

This is a matter for NHS East Midlands. We understand that it is working with Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to review reporting processes to ensure they are robust.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to measure achievements under the Nutrition Action Plan against objectives. [295097]

Phil Hope: The Department is presently reviewing the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board's end of year report and will come to a decision on these issues based on the content of that report.

Premature Births: Death

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the NHS is making in reducing the number of babies who die following premature birth. [295195]

Ann Keen: Advances in technology and health care expertise have led to increasing survival rates of very premature babies over the last 20 years. Over the past decade, survival has improved dramatically for babies born at 26 weeks of gestation and above so that now over 80 per cent. survive.

The EPICure Study (led by the university of Nottingham, Department of Child Health) was established in 1995 to determine the chances of survival and later health status by following up children who were born in the United Kingdom and Ireland at less than 26 weeks gestational age during a 10-month period in that year. This is now an ongoing study, which it is hoped will not only show survival and rates of disability but also identify factors at birth, which could give an indication as to the long-term outcome for the survivors.

A new study, EPICure 2, covers all babies born in England at 26 weeks of gestation or less during 2006. This study will demonstrate how effective advances in neonatal care have been since the first study in 1995. Preliminary findings, published in May 2008, found that babies born above 24 and 25 weeks of gestation were significantly more likely to survive in 1995 compared with 2006.

Details of the EPICure studies can be found on the EPICure website:

www.epicure.ac.uk

Social Services

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults in each age band received support under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [295861]

Phil Hope: Section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 empowers local authorities to support people in residential and nursing care homes. Data on the number of adults aged 18 and over in local authority supported registered residential and nursing care is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care via the Supported Residents (SR1) return. Information is collected for the age groups 18 to 64 and 65 and over.

The following table shows the number of adults aged 18 and over in local authority supported registered residential and nursing care as at 31 March 2007 and 2008. Information for 2009 is expected to be published in early 2010.

Total numbers of clients aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funded residential or nursing care in England as at 31 March

Rounded numbers

	Total of all supported residents		
	18 to 64	*65 and over*	*Totals*
2007	56,100	191,200	247,300
2008	53,900	182,200	236,100

Source:
NHS Information Centre—SR1 return, table 1.

Social Services: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers were recruited to work in the City of Leeds in each year since 2001. [295357]

Phil Hope: Information showing the number of whole-time equivalent social workers employed by the City of Leeds as at 30 September each year from 2001 to 2008 is shown in the following table.

	Whole-time equivalent
2001	550.6
2002	552.5
2003	599.9
2004	622.1
2005	624.8
2006	652.8
2007	670.9
2008	681.7

Notes:
1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes data relating to the number of social workers directly employed by social services departments within councils with social services responsibilities.
2. The information supplied is the number of social workers employed by the City of Leeds social services department. This has been calculated using the same definitions as that used for the performance indicators which formed part of the "performance assessment framework" (PAF) and was last published by the former Commission for Social Care Inspection in 2007-08. PAF has now been replaced by the national indicator set but there are no comparable equivalent indicators.
3. "Social Workers", includes team leaders/managers, assistant team managers/senior social workers, care managers, field social workers and child protection, family placement and juvenile/youth justice workers working in children's services. Councils employ social workers in other roles. These may have social work qualifications and registration with the General Social Care Council, but not be classified as "social workers with children" in the return.
4. Data on the number of staff employed by local authorities in social services departments in England are collected annually by The Information Centre for health and social care by means of form SSDS001; prior to 2005 the data were collected by the Department.
5. The data presented are for whole-time equivalent staff.
6. The latest date for which data are available is 30 September 2008, data for 30 September 2009 for England are expected to be published in spring 2010.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Swine Flu: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of swine influenza in Leeds West constituency. [295356]

Gillian Merron: The Government response to the Swine Flu outbreak in Leeds West constituency has been consistent with the response in other parts of the country. National health service services in the Yorkshire and Humber area are well prepared for a second wave of swine flu, having undergone extensive planning and testing processes, in line with the rest of the country.

People are able to access the National Pandemic Flu Service and be assessed for swine flu symptoms either by phone or by using the internet. If swine flu is confirmed, antiviral medicines are prescribed and can be collected from a number of local antiviral collection points (ACPs) by a "flu friend'. As at 22 October, there is one ACP open in Leeds; this may change in accordance with local demand.

General information on swine flu is also available through the Swine Flu information line.

Individuals with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, and parents with children under the age of one are being advised to speak to their general practitioner if they have symptoms.

Initial supplies of the Swine Flu vaccine are also scheduled to be delivered to acute trusts and primary care trusts over the next few weeks.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Human Rights

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [295921]

Mr. Michael Foster: Humanitarian conditions are poor throughout Burma. A third of the population (16.5 million people) lives on less than 16p a day. Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS are serious health risks. Half of Burma's 20 million children do not complete primary school. About 140,000 Burmese refugees are sheltering in camps in Thailand, and many displaced people inside Burma live in extreme poverty. Conditions remain precarious in parts of the Irrawaddy Delta struck by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008.

In response to these humanitarian needs, the Department for International Development (DFID) is increasing its programme in Burma from £12.5 million in 2008-09 to £25 million this financial year and £28 million in 2010-11. In 2008-09, DFID also provided £45 million in emergency aid following Cyclone Nargis.

UK aid for Burma is channelled through the United Nations and non-governmental organisations, not through the Burmese central government. It is monitored closely by DFID staff based in Burma. We are encouraging other donors to follow our example and expand their aid programmes in Burma.

Guinea: Politics and Government

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the humanitarian situation in Guinea; and if he will make a statement. [295022]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are appalled by the atrocities committed against peaceful demonstrators during the opposition rally of 28 September.

The UK has been actively engaged with EU counterparts in Brussels, New York and via ambassadors in the region. Our ambassador in Guinea is also a member of the International Contact Group on Guinea and has maintained a constant dialogue with EU partners on the ground.

Kenya: Overseas Aid

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the effects of the volume of available food supplies on the humanitarian situation in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [295918]

Mr. Thomas: Although food production is down by 19 per cent. in Kenya in 2009, food is being imported or donated to make up the shortfall. Food prices are, however, very high.

From a humanitarian perspective, the most important issue is whether the very poorest in society are able to access food. Increasing numbers of poor people face the double burden of low production, because of the poor rains in 2009 and the disrupted farming from post-election violence in 2008, and high prices that exclude them from the market.

Food aid is being co-ordinated by the World Food Programme (WFP), whose appeal of May 2009 has nearly been met. The Department for International Development is encouraging WFP to improve its targeting so that those most in need are assisted first. We will continue to monitor the humanitarian situation closely.

St. Helena: Airports

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made on reaching a decision regarding the construction of an airport on St. Helena; and if he will make a statement. [295919]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has recently carried out a public consultation on the most appropriate option for access to St. Helena. The consultation report will be published shortly.

TREASURY

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295718]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 74W.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects Sir John Chadwick to report to him his advice on an Equitable Life ex-gratia payment scheme; and if he will make a statement. [293965]

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects Sir John Chadwick to issue his advice to Ministers on an ex-gratia compensation scheme for Equitable Life policyholders; and what estimate he has made of the time to be taken in dealing with compensation claims following the determination of the structure of the compensation scheme. [294928]

Mr. Byrne: As I announced in the House on 21 October, the Government have asked Sir John Chadwick to submit his final report by spring 2010.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on compensating all Equitable Life policyholders for losses attributable to the manner in which Equitable Life was regulated. [294970]

Mr. Byrne: As the Government set out in their response to the parliamentary ombudsman 15 January 2009, it will establish an ex-gratia payment scheme for Equitable Life policyholders who have suffered maladministration resulting in injustice. The Government have asked Sir John Chadwick to look at the data and advise on a number of issues relating to the extent of relative loses and their impact. The Government will introduce the payment scheme with the benefit of his advice and taking into account other considerations, including the state of the public purse.

Financial Services: Pay

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will require UK Financial Investments to oblige any financial institutions in receipt of public money which have a policy of paying end of year bonuses to publish the payments and their recipients at the time the payment is made. [295595]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's policy is that state-controlled companies' (including UKFI investee banks') approach to disclosure should follow the requirements for companies listed on the Stock Exchange, including the Combined Code on Corporate Governance and Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations.

Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the Scottish Executive on the drawdown and utilisation of the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy Fund for the promotion of use from renewable sources. [295335]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Insurance: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what progress the Financial Services Authority has made in its investigation into the practice of third party capture in the insurance industry; [295791]

(2) whether the Financial Services Authority plans to take regulatory steps to ensure that insurance claimants involved in accidents have adequate opportunity to receive medical or legal advice before settling any claim. [295792]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The FSA has carried out exploratory work on the issue of third party capture in the insurance industry in order to assess the nature of the practice and the level of risk to consumers. The FSA has recently concluded this risk assessment work and is currently liaising with the relevant trade bodies to agree what action can be taken by the industry to mitigate the risks to consumers. Once these discussions are concluded, the FSA will consider what further actions, if any, are required to address any residual consumer risk attached to the practice of third party capture by the insurance industry.

Local Government: Assets

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the net average monetary value of assets purchased by local authorities over the last 20 years. [293674]

Mr. Byrne: From the years 1989-90 to 2008-09, according to the Office for National Statistics, the net value of assets purchased by local authorities was on average £4 billion a year (net of asset sales and depreciation). This figure excludes capital grants.

Personal Income

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households with an annual income of below £50,000 *(a)* in total and *(b)* with children under the age of 16 whose income is expected to exceed this level in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [295747]

Mr. Timms: No such estimates have been made. Related information, covering analysis of the income distribution in 2007-08, can be found in "Households Below Average Income", published by the Department for Work and Pensions and available at the following link.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai.asp

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the names are of the members of the Prime Minister's working group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society. [295808]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ministerial Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society is chaired by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The other members are: the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the First Minister for Northern Ireland, the Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland, the Minister for Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment Northern Ireland.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he expects the report by the Prime Minister's working group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society to be published; [295810]

(2) for what reasons the report by the Prime Minister's working group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society has not yet been published. [295811]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Working Group is examining a number of options, all of which raise complex issues. The Group wants to ensure that it has explored all issues carefully before reporting to the Prime Minister.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department took to examine the financial activities of the Presbyterian Mutual Society *(a)* prior to and *(b)* following devolution in Northern Ireland. [295857]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury had no responsibility for regulating the financial activities of PMS either before or following devolution.

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has obtained advice from the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland to assist in ensuring that the various religious communities are more accurately represented among those commencing employment in HMRC in Northern Ireland. [295472]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is aware that its staff in post figures do not reflect the economically active population of Northern Ireland in regard to community background. These figures show that the Protestant community is under-represented within HMRC's work force. In light of this, the Department has sought both the advice and agreement of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (the Commission) in the drafting of the Department's 2009 Northern Ireland Affirmative Action Plan.

The plan, recently agreed by the Commission, aims to ensure fair participation of all sections of the community in HMRC's work force through fair and transparent employment practices and a range of outreach measures, including:

All vacancies for employment are advertised widely, ensuring that newspapers read mainly by the Protestant community are included.

Job advertisements for all posts will continue to include a statement welcoming applications from the Protestant community.

Where jobs and benefits offices are used, advertisements include a welcoming statement for members of the Protestant community and are circulated to other offices in the catchment area. The response to each such request is monitored.

We have links with schools from the Protestant community in an effort to attract applicants from that community and to offer work experience to trainees.

The Department continues to benefit from the involvement of the Commission in the implementation and review of the action plan, and will report on progress to the Commission in January 2010.

Revenue and Customs: Repayment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what circumstances HM Revenue and Customs repays *(a)* capital and *(b)* interest on sums it has collected in error. [295657]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs will repay or reallocate capital collected in error with interest if applicable.

Taxation: Banks

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of tax losses being carried forward by banks from financial years *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [296184]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Historical figures for Corporation Tax paid by the financial sector are published in table 11.1. on the HMRC website. However, it is not possible to publish HMRC estimates of the loss position of UK banks due to rules protecting taxpayer confidentiality.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many online gambling companies registered in the UK paid gross profits tax on their income from gambling in each year since 2005. [295192]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The average number of online gambling companies paying Remote Gaming Duty (which is a gross profit tax) were:

	Number
2008	14
2009	17

There will also be other online gambling companies not included in Remote Gaming Duty but paying General Betting Duty. However HM Revenue and Customs do not have these data readily available.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people whose addresses registered with HM Revenue and Customs contained a BT postcode and who were required to complete a self-assessment tax return did not submit the return by the statutory deadline of 31 January in each of the last three years. [295923]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1416w and 20 May 2008, *Official Report* column 209W which provided figures for 2007-08 and 2006-07 respectively. The detail for 2005-06 is not known.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the pay band is of the officials in HM Revenue and Customs responsible for the language used in letters sent in pursuance of outstanding tax payments under the self-assessment system. [296659]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs send a number of letters to customers in pursuit of late self assessment tax payments. Many of these are sent automatically by our self assessment and debt management systems while some are specific to individual customers and written by our case workers. The grade of the officers responsible for drafting the letters varies from Administrative Officer to Senior Civil Servant.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the emissions profile of the biofuel B30K. [296189]

Joan Ruddock: The emission profile for B30K that the Department holds was established using the methodology developed by our SAP contractor BRE for calculating the carbon emission factors of fuels and the specific information provided for B30K by the Oil Firing Technical Association.

The methodology, and the carbon emission values so calculated, formed part of the consultation that was recently undertaken by DECC on the proposed changes to the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). We will be reporting on the consultation shortly.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on *(a)* the likely geographical sources of the cooking oil to be recycled and *(b)* the proportion of palm oil that will be used to recycle into the biofuel B30K. [296190]

Joan Ruddock: Reporting under the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation indicates that sources of used cooking oil used in the UK are primarily of UK origin but also include sources from Europe. We have no information on the amount of palm oil that is recycled as used cooking oil for the production of biofuels. Virgin palm oil currently accounts for 10 per cent. of biofuel used in the UK, of which, 5 per cent. from Malaysia, 2 per cent. from Indonesia and 3 per cent. unknown.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what evidence his Department has on the boiler efficiencies of oil-fired systems using the biofuel B30K which underpin the carbon output rating attributed to it in table 12 of the draft SAP 2009. [296193]

Joan Ruddock: While the Department and our SAP contractors have been working with the Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC) as they have developed B30K, we have yet to receive any formal evidence of performance. None the less, on the basis of the field trials and the comparative boiler efficiency tests undertaken, OFTEC claim there are no impacts on boiler efficiency providing the boiler is properly set up for the fuel in question. However, they have yet to formally publish the report that details their findings.

Table 12 of the draft SAP 2009 consultation relates to the carbon intensity of the fuels that may be used in homes.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has made to seek the adoption by other countries of emissions reduction targets similar to those adopted by the UK. [295800]

Joan Ruddock: The United Kingdom has made clear that it wishes to see global emissions reductions consistent with limiting global temperature increases to 2 degrees Celsius. The UK has committed to reducing its emission by 80 per cent. on 1990 levels by 2050. This is consistent with the EU's commitment to reduce its emissions by 20 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2020. The EU is prepared to increase this to a 30 per cent. reduction in the context of a global agreement in Copenhagen, provided the other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emissions reductions and that developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities. In this context the UK is calling for developed countries to set mid-term emissions reduction targets that, collectively, would reduce developed country emissions by 25-40 per cent. on 1990 levels; and is calling for developing countries to take significant action to reduce their emissions growth by 15-30 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2020. The UK has made these representations in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, other international forums including the Major Economies Forum, G8 and G20, and in bilateral contacts.

Climate Change

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials of his Department will attend the forthcoming Copenhagen climate change summit. [295799]

Joan Ruddock: We have not yet determined who will attend the Copenhagen conference from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, so we cannot say with certainty how many Ministers or officials will be on the delegation. This will depend largely on the state of international negotiations at the time.

We should have a more comprehensive idea of needs to attend the conference in the next few weeks.

Climate Change: Publicity

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultation he undertook before authorising an advertising campaign aimed at those who are sceptical about the existence of climate change. [295877]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has designed the advertising campaign observing due diligence at all stages. The campaign has been designed following qualitative research insights which demonstrate awareness of climate change is high, but that genuine understanding and literacy is low. The advertising has been produced following research among consumers to assess the most motivating messages and creative route.

Electricity

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of electricity which is lost as part of the electricity transmission process; and if he will meet representatives of the electricity generation industry to discuss this. [293824]

Mr. Kidney: An industry process under the Balancing Settlement Code Panel is currently considering the merits of introducing a locational element to the methodology used to calculate the way generators and suppliers pay for transmission losses. This could potentially provide a greater financial incentive for electricity generators and electricity suppliers to limit transmission losses. An assessment report is due in January 2010 and a final decision will be taken by Ofgem.

Energy Supply

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps Ofgem is taking in respect of *(a)* measures to reduce climate change and *(b)* ensuring the security of the UK's energy supply; and what further steps it plans to take on each such matter in the next five years. [293871]

Mr. Kidney: These are matters for Ofgem. I have asked the chairman to respond directly to the hon. Member, and place a copy in the Libraries of the House.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293480]

Joan Ruddock: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority sent two communications managers to the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences.

The Chair of the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group attended the Labour and Conservative party conferences. He was unable to attend the Liberal Democrat conference due to existing personal commitments.

No other NDPBs sent representatives to party conferences.

Renewable Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the breakdown is of Government spending on renewable energy estimated in the Pre-Budget Report to be £5.8 billion over the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [289873]

Mr. Kidney: The 2008 pre-Budget report stated that Government policies are driving £50 billion of investment in the low-carbon sector over three years to 2011.

This brings together Government spending, fiscal support and private investment driven by Government regulation in energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and public transport.

While the report did not provide a specific estimate of the level of renewables investment driven by Government policies, we estimated it to be approximately £5.8 billion.

This estimate was based on the additional investment driven by changes to the Renewable Obligation (RO). Approximately a quarter of this additional investment resulted directly from the increase in the level of RO support with the remainder coming from increased private sector investment resulting from the changes.

This represented a highly conservative estimate of the impact of the Government's renewable policies on investment over the CSR period. For example, it did not include:

the impact on investment resulting from the existing RO support already in place before 2008; and

support for renewables investment through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and 'R and D tax credits' for low carbon R and D.

Renewable Energy: Food

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to paragraph 170 of the impact assessment for the UK Renewable Energy Strategy 2009, by how much he expects *(a)* food and *(b)* biomass prices to rise as a consequence of implementation of the strategy. [295779]

Mr. Kidney: As we stated in the impact assessment, Government have not quantified the impacts on food prices and biomass for the rural sector. For the purpose of modelling the impact of the Renewable Energy Strategy, we used different scenarios for future biomass costs—both increasing and decreasing over time—to reflect the range of uncertainty involved (E4Tech (2009) Biomass supply curve for the UK). Future biomass prices are likely to be driven by global supply and demand trends as well as developments in the UK market.

Solar Power: East Midlands

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to promoting take-up of solar panel usage in *(a)* West Derbyshire and *(b)* the East Midlands since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [295873]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) which is our £131 million grant programme offering funding for small scale onsite energy technologies to householders, public, community and not-for profit-sectors. Solar PV has benefited significantly under the programme. To date we have committed over £44 million to solar PV installations under the programme.

The amount of funding that has been allocated and paid in West Derbyshire and the East Midlands is shown in the following table:

Low carbon buildings programme Phase 1: Solar PV

	All allocated	*Currently committed*	*Paid*
Householders			
East Midlands	572,378.22	513,106.22	335,086. 22
West Derbyshire	19,572.00	17,500.00	0.00
Communities			
East Midlands	21,581.28	0.00	0.00
West Derbyshire	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stream 2A			
East Midlands	114,743.25	54,419.85	44,287.45
West Derbyshire	26,922.60	9,869.60	9,869.60
Stream 2B			
East Midlands	54,469.00	0.00	0.00
West Derbyshire	0.00	0.00	0.00
Solar Thermal			
Householders			
East Midlands	237,654.00	187,200.00	163,200.00
West Derbyshire	5,200.00	4,800.00	4,000.00
Communities			
East Midlands	39,880. 55	35,388.00	35,388.00
West Derbyshire	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stream 2A			
East Midlands	36,445.75	36,445.75	26,042.15
West Derbyshire	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stream 2B			
East Midlands	26,454.00	0.00	0.00
West Derbyshire	0.00	0.00	0.00

Low carbon buildings programme Phase 2: Solar PV

	Allocated	*Paid*
Derbyshire		
LCBP2	505,413	220,628
LCBP2e	51,082	—
Solar Thermal		
Derbyshire		
LCBP2	35,226	5,985
LCBP2e	51,082	7,034,98
Solar PV		
East Midland		
LCBP2	1,329,544	590,110
LCBP2e	199,051.65	—
Solar Thermal		
East Midland		
LCBP2	761,126	104,903
LCBP2e	121,438.83	—
	121,438.83	—

We will be implementing a nationwide awareness raising campaign in November with a series of 'road shows' that are scheduled to take place in November 2009 in all English Regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Government are working with the Energy Saving Trust to promote the Low Carbon Buildings Programme household funding stream, raising awareness of the funds that remain available to successful applicants. To date, we have used both their advice network and market segmentation models to target those that are most likely to install microgeneration technologies and apply for grants.

We have set up a network of local energy advice centres providing information and advice and set up an Act on CO_2 helpline and website to inform and assist consumers

We are working with Building Research Establishment, the programme manager for Phase 2 of the LCBP, to deliver a series of regional events and a positive marketing programme to promote the programme to eligible organisations.

Warm Front Scheme

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of applicants for Warm Front grants were asked to make a contribution towards the cost of works in each English region in 2007-08. [296133]

Joan Ruddock: The following table shows the proportion of Warm Front applicants who received assistance and who were asked to make a contribution in scheme year 2007-08.

Contribution requested

Government region	*Percentage*
East Midlands	28
East of England	24
Greater London	22
North East England	20
North West England	21
South East England	23
South West England	29
West Midlands	31
Yorkshire and Humber	23

Warm Front Scheme: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of pensioner householders in Leeds West constituency who have received grants under the Warm Front scheme. [295373]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Front Scheme assisted 1,660 households in the Leeds, West constituency between 1 June 2005 and 24 August 2009. 978 of these were for householders over 60.

Figures prior to June 2005 are not available.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Leeds West constituency had received grants under the Warm Front scheme at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the average additional amount paid by such householders was for services provided under the scheme. [295375]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Front Scheme assisted 1,660 households in the Leeds, West constituency between 1 June 2005 and 24 August 2009.

Of these, 228 installations required a contribution, the average value of which was £243.19.

Figures prior to June 2005 are not available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the primary purpose was of each *(a)* procedure and *(b)* field of research carried out on animals in Scotland in 2008 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involving (i) fish, (ii) pigs and (iii) genetically modified animals; and what the reasons were for the increase in the number of procedures carried out on (A) fish, (B) pigs and (C) genetically modified animals in Scotland in that year in relation to the previous year. [295692]

Meg Hillier: The information available is provided in the following tables. Data by primary purpose are provided for both 2007 and 2008 to indicate the reasons for increases, i.e. in which primary purposes the numbers of procedures increased. The overall level of scientific procedures is determined by a number of factors, including the economic climate and global trends in scientific endeavour. Data by field of research are only collected for non-toxicological procedures.

Information relating to each individual procedure is not available, to protect statistical confidentiality, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Scientific procedures by species of animal and primary purpose of the procedure, Scotland 2008 and 2007

Number of procedures

	Pig		*Fish*		*GM Animals*[1]	
	2008	*2007*	*2008*	*2007*	*2008*	*2007*
Fundamental biological research	372	362	171,489	36,812	70,229	74,056
Applied studies—human medicine or dentistry	158	149	58	—	2,373	2,792
Applied studies—veterinary medicine	219	191	7,224	11,263	—	19
Protection of man, animals or the environment	—	—	996	1,742	—	11
Education	—	—	—	—	—	—
Training	—	—	—	—	—	—
Direct diagnosis	—	—	—	—	4	15
Breeding	134	63	4,668	1,772	104,739	74,295
Total	883	765	184,435	51,589	177,345	151,188

[1] GM animals totals includes procedures using mice, rats, pigs, domestic fowl, fish.

Scientific procedures (non-toxicology) by field of research, Scotland 2008

Number of procedures

	Pig	*Fish*	*GM Animals*[1]
Anatomy	134	5,788	21,096
Physiology	212	135,545	16,794
Biochemistry	—	—	7,583
Psychology	—	1,144	2,857

Scientific procedures (non-toxicology) by field of research, Scotland 2008

Number of procedures

	Pig	*Fish*	*GM Animals*[1]
Pathology	—	1,221	5,831
Immunology	90	1,507	39,543
Microbiology	38	3,605	406
Parasitology	—	2,132	185

Scientific procedures (non-toxicology) by field of research, Scotland 2008

			Number of procedures
	Pig	*Fish*	*GM Animals*[1]
Pharmacology	18	—	5,136
Pharmaceutical R and D	4	—	2,372
Therapeutics	30	—	2,325
Clinical medicine	—	—	840
Clinical surgery	—	—	48
Genetics	—	1,380	9,178
Molecular biology	—	320	12,579
Cancer research	—	1,473	43,296
Nutrition	—	332	150
Zoology	—	662	—
Botany	—	—	—
Animal Science	—	—	6,409
Ecology	—	24	—
Animal welfare	52	—	—
Other purpose	—	23,224	147
Total	578	178,357	176,775

[1] GM animals totals includes procedures using mice, rats, pigs, domestic fowl, fish.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in implementing each of the measures to improve social cohesion set out in the booklet, Anti-social Behaviour Enforcement and Support Tools: An information pack for members of Parliament, dated January 2009; and what criteria he uses to measure the effectiveness of implementation of the measures. [294252]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since 1998 when antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) were introduced we have introduced a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour. These measures are being used by practitioners to bring relief to communities across the country. Local agencies decide on the most appropriate intervention to use in each case. The overall aim is to tackle antisocial behaviour at the earliest opportunity with the most appropriate tool.

Three independent reports including the Home Affairs Select Committee report (2005), the Audit Commission report (May 2006) and the NAO report (December 2006) have confirmed our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. The NAO report found that 65 per cent. of people desisted from ASB after one intervention and nine out of 10 had desisted after three interventions.

The Home Office has commissioned research into the comparative effectiveness of all the antisocial behaviour tools and powers which is due for publication next year.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many neighbourhood policing action squads have been established to tackle anti-social behaviour; [294423]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to meet the Government's new objectives for neighbourhood policing teams in relation to anti-social behaviour. [294424]

Alan Johnson: Neighbourhood policing is central to providing a police service that is responsive to local crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) concerns. Since 2002 we have invested over £1 billion to ensure that there is now a neighbourhood policing team in every neighbourhood, including over 13,500 officers and 16,000 PCSOs, with a range of tools and powers to deal with ASB. These teams engage with their local communities to understand their concerns—which will usually include ASB—and work with partners to address them. Between March 2008 and March 2009 public confidence that police and local agencies are dealing with local crime and ASB matters has increased from 45 per cent. to 49 per cent.

In December 2008, we introduced the policing pledge, which outlines commitments that the police service have made to the public, including minimum response times, holding monthly meetings to understand local concerns, providing monthly updates on action taken to deal with those concerns and visiting victims of crime. I welcome the recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) of the delivery of the pledge, in each police force ensuring that the public know how well their force is doing. Police authorities and forces are now working to respond to the challenge this has set them.

The Government are clear that there is more to be done. On 13 October I announced a package of measures to improve the collective response to ASB. This includes extra support for victims of antisocial behaviour and a crackdown on those that breach ASBOs and new local minimum service standards agreed with the public that outline what they should expect from councils, police and social landlords to deal with intimidation.

In 62 priority CDRPs, support and advice will be provided from a Home Office regional delivery manager, supported by the ASB action squad of expert practitioners, to make sure that the police, councils and housing are working together effectively to tackle ASB. All 62 partnerships have had face to face meetings, five partnerships have already been visited to begin the assessment process and the remaining 57 are due to be visited in the next six weeks.

The forthcoming Policing White Paper will set out the next steps on neighbourhood policing.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps may be taken by the relevant authorities in respect of the parents of young people who breach their anti-social behaviour orders. [294427]

Alan Johnson: Breach of an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) is a criminal offence. Currently whenever a child is in court convicted of a criminal offence, the court must consider making a parenting order where the court's assessment is that this is in the interests of preventing a repetition of antisocial behaviour by the child.

We are proposing to bring in legislation to make a parenting order mandatory when a child (aged 10 to 15) breaches an ASBO. In tandem with this we are also proposing that children being considered for an ASBO receive a parenting needs assessment.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued in Coventry in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 1997; and what the most common reason was for their issue in each such year. [295340]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. Data on the number issued currently covers the period to the end of 2007. These data are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Data on the number of ASBOs issued held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform do not include information detailing the specific nature of the antisocial behaviour which resulted in the court issuing the ASBO. This could only be determined by examining individual court files which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency since 1998. [295311]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. The latest available data on the number of ASBOs issued cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007. These data are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2007, a total of 200 ASBOs were issued at all courts in the Derbyshire CJS area.

Crime: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recorded rate of each category of crime was in North Yorkshire in each year since 2002-03. [295225]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire[1] and rates per 1,000 population

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Offence group	*No. of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*No. of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*No. of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*No. of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*
Violence against the person	8,108	11	9,610	13	12,045	16	11,473	15
Sexual offences	504	1	596	1	563	1	631	1
Robbery	356	0	395	1	328	0	240	0
Burglary	11,511	15	11,062	15	7,759	10	7,324	10
Offences against vehicle	10,697	14	10,614	14	7,463	10	7,938	10
Other theft offences	17,663	24	18,792	25	14,721	19	14,068	18
Fraud and forgery	2,987	4	3,330	4	2,796	4	1,884	2
Criminal damage	13,168	18	14,732	20	13,573	18	12,723	17
Drug offences	1,582	2	1,624	2	1,678	2	1,899	2
Other offences	663	1	718	1	689	1	670	1
Total	67,239	89	71,473	95	61,615	81	58,850	77

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
Offence group	*No. of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*No. of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*No. of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*
Violence against the person	10,087	13	9,472	12	8,136	10
Sexual offences	590	1	587	1	549	1
Robbery	278	0	248	0	247	0
Burglary	6,836	9	6,264	8	6,596	8
Offences against vehicle	7,057	9	5,578	7	5,581	7
Other theft offences	13,242	17	12,647	16	12,867	16
Fraud and forgery	1,575	2	1,379	2	1,170	1
Criminal damage	12,509	16	11,023	14	10,764	14
Drug offences	1,730	2	2,158	3	1,997	3
Other offences	622	1	588	1	656	1
Total	54,526	71	49,944	64	48,563	62

[1] Figures for North Yorkshire have been revised since the publication of the annual figures in July 2009.

Detection Rates: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection clear-up rate was for each category of crime in North Yorkshire in each year since 2002-03. [295224]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the table.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable.

From 2 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstance. In terms of offences detected by the police, the preferred measure is now to use sanction detections.

Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Detection rates for offences recorded and detected in North Yorkshire

							Percentage
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Violence against the person	67	67	77	75	70	69	59
Sexual offences	51	48	46	47	44	37	37
Robbery	21	32	31	31	26	29	31
Burglary	11	13	13	14	11	12	13
Offences against vehicle	6	9	9	11	8	8	11
Other theft offences	24	25	27	28	28	28	28
Fraud and forgery	48	46	56	50	49	57	52
Criminal damage	14	15	19	20	19	18	17
Drug offences	102	100	98	98	99	87	95
Other offences	94	96	89	93	77	87	84
Total	26	28	35	35	33	33	31

Note:
Offences detected in a given year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.

DNA: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of *(a)* white, *(b)* black and *(c)* Asian (i) men and (b) women aged (A) 10 to 15, (B) 16 to 17 and (C) 18 or more years old were on the national DNA database in each year since 2001. [294183]

Alan Johnson: The national DNA database (NDNAD) is constantly changing as profiles are added and deleted. It is not possible to produce information retrospectively on the state of the database in past years, unless this was collected by statistics produced at the time. The information sought on the number of those on the NDNAD by the ethnicity, gender and age groups specified is available for 31 March 2009 and 31 March 2008 and is provided in table 1. Some information is also available for 31 March 2007, and is provided in table 2. The information sought is not available for years before 2007.

The tables show the number of profiles held, which is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because some profiles are replicates i.e. more than one profile is held for one individual. This may occur if, for example, an individual gives different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests. As at 31 March 2009, the replication rate on the NDNAD as a whole was 13.5 per cent. The tables show data on profiles loaded by all police forces.

It is not possible to calculate accurately the proportion of members of ethnic groups in the population as a whole who are on the NDNAD because the data held on the NDNAD are not directly comparable with census population data. The NDNAD does not hold self-reported ethnicity data on arrested persons who have a DNA sample taken, but on their 'ethnic appearance'. The ethnic appearance data is based on the judgment of the police officer and is recorded for police intelligence purposes to assist in subsequent identification. It uses six broad ethnic categories (plus 'unknown') whereas census data is based on 16 ethnic groups self-reported by individuals.

Table 1

Gender	*Ethnic appearance*	*Current age as at 31 March 2009*	*Profiles retained at 31 March 2009*	*Current age as at 31 March 2008*	*Profiles retained at 31 March 2008*
Female	Unknown	10-15	1,855	10-15	2,929
		16-17	4,116	16-17	5,099
		18+	89,878	18+	83,266
	Asian	10-15	914	10-15	888
		16-17	1,598	16-17	1,384
		18+	33,839	18+	27,807
	Black	10-15	2,859	10-15	2,902
		16-17	4,274	16-17	4,109
		18+	76,008	18+	63,843
	Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	10-15	83	10-15	93

Table 1

Gender	*Ethnic appearance*	*Current age as at 31 March 2009*	*Profiles retained at 31 March 2009*	*Current age as at 31 March 2008*	*Profiles retained at 31 March 2008*
		16-17	203	16-17	199
		18+	9,340	18+	7,472
	Middle Eastern	10-15	70	10-15	50
		16-17	89	16-17	84
		18+	3,290	18+	2,689
	White—North European	10-15	32,912	10-15	36,756
		16-17	52,699	16-17	53,528
		18+	813,093	18+	701,320
	White—South European	10-15	636	10-15	617
		16-17	868	16-17	721
		18+	17,621	18+	14,330
Male	Unknown	10-15	4,537	10-15	7,313
		16-17	10,139	16-17	13,538
		18+	382,983	18+	360,727
	Asian	10-15	4,314	10-15	4,281
		16-17	7,625	16-17	7,275
		18+	244,229	18+	208,640
	Black	10-15	7,277	10-15	7,038
		16-17	11,242	16-17	11,062
		18+	310,471	18+	274,282
	Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	10-15	216	10-15	197
		16-17	443	16-17	378
		18+	25,019	18+	20,168
	Middle Eastern	10-15	500	10-15	323
		16-17	999	16-17	739
		18+	36,300	18+	30,467
	White—North European	10-15	72,265	10-15	81,248
		16-17	109,096	16-17	114,249
		18+	3,115,325	18+	2,790,097
	White—South European	10-15	1,335	10-15	1,187
		16-17	1,921	16-17	1,690
		18+	82,818	18+	70,090
Gender not recorded	Unknown	10-15	45	10-15	46
		16-17	73	16-17	258
		18+	34,449	18+	34,460
	Asian	10-15	18	10-15	17
		16-17	34	16-17	48
		18+	591	18+	476
	Black	10-15	44	10-15	26
		16-17	33	16-17	34
		18+	487	18+	376
	Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	10-15	1	10-15	1
		16-17	2	16-17	2
		18+	83	18+	72
	Middle Eastern	10-15	1	10-15	1
		16-17	4	16-17	2
		18+	106	18+	94
	White—North European	10-15	336	10-15	419
		16-17	458	16-17	475
		18+	4,866	18+	4,259
	White—South European	10-15	11	10-15	9

Table 1

Gender	*Ethnic appearance*	*Current age as at 31 March 2009*	*Profiles retained at 31 March 2009*	*Current age as at 31 March 2008*	*Profiles retained at 31 March 2008*
		16-17	5	16-17	11
		18+	164	18+	122

Table 2

Data as at 31 March 2007	*Profiles retained*
Current age as at 31 March 2007	
10-15	151,882
16-17	206,440
18+	4,069,684
Ethnic appearance (not including those with gender not recorded)	
Unknown	415,793
Asian	210,801
Black	315,779
Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	22,803
Middle Eastern	29,261
White—North European	3,316,161
White—South European	78,219
Gender	
Male	3,524,657
Female	864,160

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people now aged over 10 years old on the national DNA database had their profile added to the database when they were under the age of 10; and how many were in each age group under 10 years old at the time their profile was added. [294202]

Alan Johnson: Government policy is that English and Welsh police forces should not hold profiles of children under 10 on the national DNA database (NDNAD). Following the announcement of this policy on 16 December 2008, profiles of all those who were under 10 at the time a DNA sample was taken from them were removed, regardless of whether their current age was under or over 10. The national DNA database is regularly monitored to confirm that this policy remains in effect.

Firearms

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 886W, on firearms, whether figures are available for incidents excluding those relating to air weapons; and what the equivalent figures are for 2008-09. [294284]

Alan Johnson: I can confirm that the data provided in the answers of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 886W and 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1054W, referred to offences involving firearms excluding air weapons, despite the table headings indicating otherwise due to a typographical error. Available data relate to offences recorded in the period 1998-99 up to and including 2007-08, and are reproduced in the following table.

Provisional data show that 8,184 firearm offences (excluding air weapons) were recorded in England and Wales in 2008-09. Data at police force area level are scheduled to be published in the January 2010 Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09", an internet-only release that will be available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/whatsnew1.html

Data on offences involving firearms including air weapons for the period 1998-99 to 2007-08 were provided in the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 593W.

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Firearm offences data for the years up to and including 2001-02 are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by region and police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08, number of offences

Recorded crime

Police force area	*1998-99[1]*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02[2]*	*2002-03[3]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East Region										
Cleveland	20	26	16	24	18	45	37	41	19	15
Durham	13	40	18	19	16	15	21	18	14	45
Northumbria	76	107	90	86	103	160	182	137	111	78
North West Region										
Cheshire	32	22	44	50	31	44	61	71	41	59
Cumbria	11	5	13	9	13	11	26	18	21	18
Greater Manchester	647	875	935	1,361	1,240	1,275	1,268	1,200	993	1,100
Lancashire	50	78	59	103	66	58	259	372	364	349
Merseyside	286	240	278	299	318	483	491	485	400	398

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by region and police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08, number of offences

Recorded crime

Police force area	*1998-99[2]*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02[3]*	*2002-03[3]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Yorkshire and the Humber Region										
Humberside	76	61	69	63	68	68	174	108	117	58
North Yorkshire	11	8	9	20	18	23	13	15	14	17
South Yorkshire	75	114	129	170	153	127	185	301	211	202
West Yorkshire	193	191	335	332	333	269	318	355	319	332
East Midlands Region										
Derbyshire	52	65	72	58	73	75	149	109	83	70
Leicestershire	98	71	58	74	176	141	123	89	109	134
Lincolnshire	16	19	24	22	37	26	90	72	45	41
Northamptonshire	54	48	40	55	107	123	113	128	159	164
Nottinghamshire	112	173	157	204	206	233	303	277	196	240
West Midlands Region										
Staffordshire	23	53	108	116	131	108	144	128	94	123
Warwickshire	20	14	39	55	62	102	73	80	90	107
West Mercia	38	36	41	56	48	62	151	115	58	124
West Midlands	407	664	817	1,288	1,300	1,138	959	946	979	974
East of England Region										
Bedfordshire	46	56	48	82	86	89	94	103	86	83
Cambridgeshire	35	43	33	49	57	34	50	34	24	30
Essex	47	61	77	98	148	145	193	280	255	260
Hertfordshire	30	36	36	60	139	138	139	114	89	112
Norfolk	34	24	20	26	36	33	23	29	34	43
Suffolk	13	18	22	15	28	45	59	58	42	38
London Region[4]	2,034	2,965	3,036	4,190	4,302	3,891	3,697	3,884	3,331	3,399
South East Region										
Hampshire	38	52	49	58	97	130	148	85	122	100
Kent	76	109	108	60	64	65	100	142	92	82
Surrey	35	42	52	40	34	88	63	87	60	70
Sussex	113	119	110	135	136	82	67	85	84	69
Thames Valley	96	107	198	267	382	421	437	401	332	322
South West Region										
Avon and Somerset	71	103	100	131	119	123	196	167	138	116
Devon and Cornwall	75	81	64	52	36	84	189	174	132	111
Dorset	11	12	14	34	17	45	49	27	28	21
Gloucestershire	22	20	23	89	92	108	87	77	65	43
Wiltshire	19	10	13	26	60	53	49	43	69	49
Wales										
Dyfed-Powys	16	13	26	26	17	37	40	21	17	25
Gwent	26	19	11	18	52	74	85	53	33	47
North Wales	27	10	6	6	18	11	60	88	98	53
South Wales	31	52	67	56	74	47	104	71	67	84
England and Wales	5,209	6,843	7,471	10,024	10,340	10,338	11,069	11,088	9,645	9,865

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by region and police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08, number of offences

Recorded crime

Police force area	*1998-99[2]*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02[3]*	*2002-03[4]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England and Wales (excluding London Region)	3,175	3,898	4,435	5,825	6,046	6,447	7,372	7,204	6,314	6,466

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

[2] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[3] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

[4] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002, which may have resulted in inflated figures for some crime categories. Figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.

[5] City of London and Metropolitan police force areas.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued on *(a)* the use of fixed penalty notices and *(b)* the level of fines issued by fixed penalty for (i) shoplifting, (ii) sexual offences and (iii) household waste offences. [294894]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Justice issued revised operational guidance to police forces on 16 July 2009, restricting the use of penalty notices for disorder for shop theft to first-time offenders who are not substance abusers, where the value of the goods is less than £100, and normally where the goods have been recovered. The guidance can be found at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminal-justice-police-act-retail-pnd.htm

The level of the penalty is fixed by law at £80 for adults and £40 for juveniles.

Fixed penalty notices cannot be issued for sexual offences.

Following the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, DEFRA issued guidance on the use of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for a range of offences, including those related to waste receptacles. A link to the guidance, as well as additional information on environmental FPNS is as follows.

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/legislation/fpn/index.htm

Identity Cards: Costs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the *(a)* design and *(b)* development of identity cards was in each of the last eight years. [295431]

Meg Hillier: Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver passports including facial images and fingerprints, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the technology and operational processes needed to implement identity cards are also required for the implementation of these new passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives.

Much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, either financially or operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of passports with facial images and fingerprints or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects. Total spend since April 2006 to September 2009 on future development projects encompassing the NIS is £216 million. The spend on future development projects in the 2006-07 financial year amounted to £30.9 million. The costs accounted for as future development projects in the 2007-08 financial year were £61.7 million, £81.5 million in 2008-09 and approximately £42 million for the period April to September 2009.

Between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06, £41.1 million was spent by the Home Office Identity Cards programme in total.

Passports: Fees and Charges

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average *(a)* overseas passport fee, *(b)* delivery charge and *(c)* issue time in days was for renewing a British passport for British citizens resident in each country of the European Union in the latest period for which information is available. [294173]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

Straightforward passports must be issued within 10 working days of receipt of the application. Since rationalising the European network and creating three centres of excellence, 96 per cent. of straightforward applications have been issued within this target.

The cost of passports both in the UK and overseas increased with effect from 3 September 2009. The overseas fees are as follows:

32-page adult passport: £124.50

32-page child (under-16) passport: £79.50

48-page 'jumbo' passport: £150.50

Emergency passport: £69.00

Emergency travel document/temporary passport: £89.00.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) issues fewer than 400,000 passports a year from about 60 locations and under HM Treasury rules must recover the full costs of issuing through the passport fee.

The passport fees are calculated on the basis of the cost of staff, accommodation and overheads involved proportionate to the average time taken worldwide to perform the service. The calculations are carefully scrutinised by the Treasury, approved by the Privy Council and laid before Parliament.

Fees are set in London in sterling and collected overseas in various currencies depending on the location of the service. The rates of exchange used to calculate the local fee rates allows each overseas Post a small variance to ensure that, in countries where the exchange rate dramatically changes on a daily basis, the embassy does not have to amend its rates daily. The rates of exchange are scrutinised regularly to ensure that Posts do not exceed this.

For passport applicants applying by post, the average cost of courier delivery varies from country to country and ranges from £7 to £40 depending on location. Customers living in remote locations tend to have to pay more.

We have a consular business target that 90 per cent. of applications are issued within this processing target. The time it takes the courier to return the new passport to the customer, which in Europe averages two to three working days, is not part of the 10-day target.

Police Community Support Officers: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers have been recruited in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency since 2003. [295310]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the following table. Data are not collected centrally at constituency level.

Police community support officers (FTE[1]) recruited in Derbyshire, 2002-03 to 2008-09[2,3]

	Number
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	26
2005-06	0
2006-07	123
2007-08	22

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
2. Financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
3. Recruits include those officers joining as police staff standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police community support officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

Police Custody: Health Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has estimated the cost of establishing a permanent medical staff presence in police custody suites. [293988]

Mr. Hanson: We have not estimated the cost of establishing a permanent medical staff presence in police custody suites.

We are however considering our response to Lord Bradley's 'Review of People with Mental Health Problems or Learning Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System' which recommended that the NHS and the police should explore the feasibility of transferring commissioning and budgetary responsibility for health care services in police custody suites to the NHS at the earliest opportunity. The Government will announce their response in due course.

Police: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to amend the Police Pension Scheme entitlements in respect of high earners who are members of the scheme. [295786]

Mr. Hanson: The provisions of public service pension schemes, including the Police Pension Scheme, are kept under review to ensure they are appropriate and sustainable at all levels.

Police: Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has issued any recent guidance to police authorities on the appointment of Chief Constables; what mechanism exists for the announcement of such appointments; and whether any arrangements are made to inform hon. Members. [295263]

Mr. Hanson: A Home Office guidance document on Recruitment and Selection of Chief Police Officers [Home Office Circular 60/2002] was published in 2002 and issued to all police authorities. Police authorities appoint chief constables and hence are responsible for announcing such appointments and informing interested parties as they consider appropriate.

Terrorism: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in Coventry were convicted of offences related to terrorism in Coventry in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 1997. [295343]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office collates statistics showing the number of individuals convicted of offences related to terrorism and these were included in a Bulletin published on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). These statistics, however, do not show the number of offences in a particular area or how many people convicted of offences related to terrorism are residents of that area. The Home Office does not hold statistics which are recorded in this way.

Theft

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of theft of a purse have occurred in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [295751]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally from the recorded crime statistics.

Offences of theft of a purse would be recorded as theft from the person, robbery of personal property or other theft depending on the circumstances surrounding each individual offence. Such offences cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within these offence classifications.

Vetting: Schools

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are expected to be checked by the Independent Safeguarding Authority under the Vetting and Barring Scheme in each of the next five years. [294216]

Alan Johnson: Based on the expected number of registrants over the first five years of the Vetting and Barring Scheme's operation and the prevailing offending rates in the sectors covered by the scheme we estimate that between 500,000 and 750,000 individuals will be assessed by the Independent Safeguarding Authority over this period.

Weston Hostel

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect on public safety in West Dorset of the downgrading of Grade 3 Approved Premises Assistants to Grade 2 at Weston Hostel. [295062]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Staff grades at the Weston Approved Premises are currently subject to review by Dorset probation area. Any changes will reflect the results of an established job evaluation process and a full assessment of risk.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in respect of which academy schools committed sponsorship has not been *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partially received in each of the last five years. [296188]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There are two types of sponsorship payments for academies: "Traditional Procurement" and "Endowment Model". In the case of "Traditional Procurement Academies", the timing of the receipt of cash sponsorship varies from academy to academy and is agreed as part of the funding agreement between the Department and the academy. In the case of the "Endowment Model", receipts commence only after the academy has opened, and usually over a period of five years. Payments are not required on an annual basis and the question has therefore been answered as set out below.

The answer contains two tables. The first, headed "Traditional Procurement Academies" shows for each academy where sponsorship is a contribution to capital costs, the total pledged, the amount for which the Department has evidence of receipt, and the amount still expected. In some cases further sponsorship payments may have already been received by the academy trust but not yet reported to the Department. The second table, headed "Endowment Sponsorship Academies" shows for each academy where sponsorship is in the form of contributions to an endowment fund, the amounts pledged, the amounts reported so far to the Department as received and the amount still expected. As with the first category, there may be cases where further sponsorship has already been received by the academy trust but not yet reported to the Department.

Table 1: Traditional Procurement Academies

£000

Academy	*Total sponsorship pledged*	*Total confirmed capital contribution from sponsor at at 24 October 2009*	*Amount still expected*
Manchester	2,000	1,614	386
Lambeth	2,000	2,000	0
Northampton	2,000	1,648	352
Paddington[1]	1,500	642	858
Salford[1]	1,600	214	1,386
Barnsley[1]	1,500	27	1,473
Walthamstow[1]	1,500	27	1,473
Sheffield Springs	1,500	1,500	0
Sheffield Park	1,000	1,000	0
Stockport[1]	1,500	202	1,298
Manchester William Hulme[1]	950	0	950
North Oxfordshire	1,500	1,536	-36
Swindon	1,500	300	1,200
Peckham	2,000	2,986	-986
Harris Academy South Norwood	2,000	250	1,750
Harris Bermondsey	1,500	493	1,007
Harris Merton	500	0	500
Harris Girls—East Dulwich	500	0	500
Harris Boys—East Dulwich	1,000	0	1,000
Harris Crystal Palace	1,000	0	1,000
The King's Academy	2,000	2,006	-6
Trinity, Doncaster	2,000	2,000	0
Bede Academy	1,500	0	1,500

Table 1: Traditional Procurement Academies

£000

Academy	*Total sponsorship pledged*	*Total confirmed capital contribution from sponsor as at 24 October 2009*	*Amount still expected*
Haberdashers'—Hatcham	705	705	0
Haberdashers'—Knights	296	296	0
Marlowe	2,735	2,735	0
Folkestone	2,250	1,516	734
Walsall	2,500	2,565	-65
Sandwell	2,794	2,743	51
Telford Madeley	2,000	1,000	1,000
Grace, Solihull	2,000	2,000	0
Coventry Grace Academy	2,000	0	2,000
Enfield	2,000	308	1,692
OASIS—Immingham	2,000	0	2,000
OASIS—Wintringham	2,000	0	2,000
Burlington Danes	1,500	1,500	0
Lambeth 2 Evelyn Grace	2,500	1,000	1,500
Southwark 4 Globe	1,500	1,000	500
Westminster King Solomon	1,500	1,500	0
Bexley	2,410	2,462	-52
Greig	2,000	1,930	70
Unity	2,000	1,948	52
Capital City, Brent	2,000	1,993	7
City of London Southwark	2,000	2,000	0
City Academy, Bristol	2,499	1,670	829
West London, Ealing	2,000	2,000	0
London, Barnet	1,500	1,490	10
Mossbourne	2,150	1,745	405
Stockley	2,000	1,952	47
St. Francis of Assisi	2,000	1,187	813
The Harefield	1,500	696	804
Dixons CTC	651	975	-324
David Young, Leeds	1,500	1,000	500
Westminster	1,500	1,200	300
Thomas Deacon	2,000	1,970	30
St. Paul's—Greenwich	2,000	200	1,800
John Madejski, Reading	2,000	2,000	0
The Bridge, Hackney	2,000	2,001	-1
Samworth Enterprise	2,443	2,063	380
Petchey	2,000	2,024	-24
North Liverpool	1,000	1,000	0
Bradford Cathedral	1,000	0	1,000
Macmillan	1,250	450	800
Djanogly	0	0	0
St. Matthew Lewisham	2,100	2,100	0
Slough Langley	2,033	2,033	0
Leigh Technology	2,275	2,275	0
St. Mary Magdalene—Islington	2,000	1,500	500
Bristol—Withywood	2,000	2,000	0
Newcastle Excelsior	2,000	2,459	-459
Corby City	2,000	2,000	0
Ashcroft Technology	960	860	100
Landau Forte College	460	462	-2
Q3—Sandwell	2,000	750	1,250
The Chelsea Science Academy	4,000	2,000	2,000
Brooke Weston	468	423	45
John Cabot	378	317	61
Liverpool Belvedere	1,102	1,102	0
City of London KPMG Academy	2,000	2,000	0
Islington—COLA (I)	2,000	2,000	0
Sandwell—RSA	1,500	0	1,500

Table 1: Traditional Procurement Academies

£000

Academy	*Total sponsorship pledged*	*Total confirmed capital contribution from sponsor as at 24 October 2009*	*Amount still expected*
Darwen Aldridge	2,000	0	2,000
Wren Academy (Barnet)	500	500	0
JCB Academy	1,750	50	1,700
Kingshurst	1,338	0	1,338
Bacons	0	0	0
Hereford Steiner	918	0	918
St. Mark's Academy—Merton	533	0	533
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,000	0	1,000
Gateway (Thurrock)	0	0	0

[1] Sponsorship pledged is based on 'reasonable endeavours'.

Table 2: Endowment Sponsorship Academies[1]

£

Academy	*Total pledge*	*Actuals paid*	*Amount still expected*
Barnfield South Academy	2,000,000	100,000	1,900,000
Barnfield West Academy	2,000,000	100,000	1,900,000
St. Aidan's CE Academy (Eastbourne)	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
George Salter Collegiate Academy	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Havelock Academy	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000
Marsh Academy	850,000	750,000	100,000
New Line Learning Academy	1,500,000	650,000	850,000
St. Michael and All Angels CE Academy	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000
Spires Academy	500,000	0	500,000
Walworth Academy	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Abraham Darby Academy	750,000	0	750,000
Academy 360	2,250,000	2,000,000	250,000
Archbishop Sentamu Academy	250,000	0	250,000
The Hereford Academy	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
New Charter Academy	2,000,000	2,000,000	0
Oasis Academy Bristol Hengrove	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Oasis Academy Media City: UK Salford	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Priory Federation of Academies	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Richard Rose Federation	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
RSA Academy at Tipton	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Samworth Church Academy, Nottingham	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
St. Lawrence Academy	750,000	0	750,000
West Lakes Academy	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
All Saints	750.000	0	750.000
Castle View Enterprise Academy	1,350,000	0	1,350,000
Droylsden Academy	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Fulwood Academy	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Milton Keynes	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000
Northumberland CE Academy	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Nottingham Academy	500,000	0	500,000
Nottingham University Samworth Academy	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Red House Academy	1,250,000	1,000,000	250,000
Strood Academy	500,000	0	500,000
University Chester Church of England Academy	100,000	0	100,000

[1] Figures are based on each academy's latest annual accounts (which were as at 31 August 2008).

Children In Care

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any financial incentives are available to families caring for a child under a special guardianship order. [295303]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authorities have discretion to provide financial support. There is no requirement for a local authority to provide financial support to an individual family. However, where an assessment of a person's need for financial support is made and it is decided that a person has such needs, the local authority must decide whether to provide the support and in making this decision they must act in accordance with regulations and must act reasonably. Financial support can be paid to help secure a suitable special guardianship arrangement where such an arrangement cannot be readily made because of a financial obstacle.

Children's Commissioner for England

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account he has taken of the report of the Select Committee on

Children, Schools and Families in his appointment of the Children's Commissioner for England. [295200]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State gave very careful consideration to the report, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines on pre-appointment hearings, before making a decision on the appointment of Maggie Atkinson as Children's Commissioner for England.

All the comments made by the Committee were taken into account. My right hon. Friend responded in detail to each of the issues in a letter to the chair of the Committee and made a statement on the appointment to the House of Commons on 19 October.

As set out in his response to the chair of the Committee, he also considered the transcript of the hearing; Maggie Atkinson's career history; and other evidence from the independent recruitment process, which was validated by an independent OPCA (Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments) assessor and which identified Maggie Atkinson as clearly the strongest candidate.

He concluded that the Committee's report did not put forward new relevant facts concerning Maggie Atkinson's suitability for the post such as to cause him to alter his nomination of her to the post of the Children's Commissioner.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many households have CCTV cameras installed inside their homes as part of family intervention projects; and whether he plans to extend the use of such cameras; [294895]

(2) which local authorities have installed CCTV cameras inside homes as part of family intervention projects. [294896]

Dawn Primarolo: Family Intervention Projects do not involve CCTV in people's homes. A small number (12) of the projects do have residential units where families are subject to 24 hour supervision with security staff and key workers always on site, but the majority of projects work with families in their own homes. Key workers do 'monitor' families and may visit unannounced, but this does not involve CCTV.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* his special advisers last met Mr Damian McBride in the course of their official duties. [287367]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Neither the Secretary of State nor his special advisers have met with Mr. McBride in the course of their duties since his resignation on 11 April 2009.

Departmental Energy

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has a strategy to encourage voltage optimisation on its estate. [295273]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has installed Voltage Optimisation in its London building and is now evaluating the return on this investment. The findings of this evaluation will determine whether a roll-out strategy is appropriate for the Department.

Departmental Female Staff

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of his Department's senior civil service staff have been women in each year since the Department was established. [289796]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information for the Department since its creation on 28 June 2007 is set out in the following table:

	Number of SCS women	*Proportion (percentage)*
July 2007 to March 2008	57	45
April 2008 to March 2009	69	50

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296180]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families currently has three contracts to provide mail services across its headquarter buildings located in London, Sheffield, Darlington and Runcorn.

Companies and contract expiry dates:

1. TNT UK Ltd. used for parcel carrier services: contract expires 30 April 2013.
2. Central Dispatch Services Ltd. used for courier services: contract expires 3 October 2010.
3. Copley Couriers used for courier services: contract expires 3 October 2010.
4. Royal Mail is our main provider of mail services.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to table 8.4 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, page 175, to which programmes the safeguarding spending budget for 2010-11 has been allocated. [293270]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* Detail on the constituent parts of the planned safeguarding spending, aggregated in DCSF's departmental annual report 2009, are provided in the table for the year 2010-11.

Departmental allocation, 2010-11

	£000
Teenage Pregnancy/Substance Misuse	10,185
Safeguarding Children and Supporting Families Grant	1,130

Please note that additional expenditure on these programmes occurs outside the departmental body as part of local authority spending.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to table 8.4 of his Department's annual report 2009, page 175, to which programmes *(a)* the 2009-10 and *(b)* the 2010-11 budget for child wellbeing has been allocated. [293271]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Detail on the constituent parts of the Department's Child Wellbeing programmes, which are shown aggregated in DCSF's departmental annual report 2009, are provided in the following table for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11:

Departmental report allocation (£ million)

Child Wellbeing	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Priority Funds—Extension of three/four year old offer	0	340
Children in care proposals	43	48
Joint birth registration	1	10
Commissioning efficiency	17	0
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers' children/choice protects (receipts)	-15	-18
School based mental health	19	0
Teenage pregnancy grant	0	2
Treatment foster care	0	1
Child well being total	65	383

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to table 8.4 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, page 176, what the breakdown of spending is for youth programmes for 2010-11. [293631]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* The Department's programmes shown aggregated in DCSF's departmental Annual Report 2009 for the year 2010-11 are provided in the following table:

Departmental Report Allocation

Youth programmes	*£000*
Contact Point (Capital)	35,200
Youth Challenge Fund	4,300
Workforce Development Capital Grant	218
National Youth Agency (NYA)/National Voluntary Youth Agency (NVYO) Grants	8,000
Children and Families Directorate (CFD) Capital Grant	21,334
Voluntary Child Services (VCS) Children Young People and Families (CYPF) Grant & capacity improving	21,802
Communications/Participation/Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS)	864
Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS)/Integrated Children's System (ICS)/ Making Safeguarding Everyone's Responsibility (MSER)/Adoption Strategy/ Quality Protects (QP)	59,523
Family Fund Trust/Contact a Family	23,322
10 Year Strategy Additions	66,000
Youth Sector Support	40,000
Peer Mentoring	240
Youth Programmes total	280,803

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294688]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The data requested was for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). DCSF was established under the machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, therefore the response covers its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

Overnight accommodation costs for overseas travel is inclusive for both Ministers and officials. Expotel the Department's contractor since 2007 are unable to separate Minister and officials overseas travel and without incurring disproportionate costs are only able to supply data for a period of two years.

2007-08—£14,144.00

2008-09—£34,229.00

Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year, this information includes accommodation costs. Copies are available in the Libraries.

Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last *(a)* met and *(b)* communicated with (i) Mr Derek Draper and (ii) Mr Charlie Whelan in the course of his official duties. [287351]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Secretary of State has not had meetings with Mr. Draper or Mr. Whelan as part of his official duties as Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

Eating Disorders: Curriculum

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has given consideration to the inclusion of lessons on body confidence, positive body image and the danger of eating disorders in school curricula. [295891]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government take the wellbeing, health and safety of young people very seriously and is committed to ensuring that their time in school equips them with the knowledge, understanding and practical skills to live healthy, safe, fulfilled and responsible lives.

Furthermore we appreciate the importance of ensuring that young people learn about body image and develop their confidence on this.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) at Key Stage 4 (ages 14-16) currently includes a personal wellbeing study programme which deals with body image and eating disorders.

Family Intervention Projects

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many families were participating in a family intervention project on the latest date for which figures are available. [294386]

Dawn Primarolo: Provisional data from the Family Intervention Project (FIP) online monitoring information system, maintained by the National Centre for Social Research, suggests that at 16 October 2009 1,282 families were participating in a FIP. Data returns from local authorities to DCSF Families at Risk Division suggest that around 3,600 families have been supported by a FIP since 2006.

Further Education: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether statutory guidance to be issued under clause 43 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill will ensure colleges are able to refuse admission to a potential student felt to pose a threat to the safety of their students or staff; and if he will make a statement. [295627]

Mr. Iain Wright: Clause 44 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill (as amended in Lords Committee (previously clause 43)) is intended to enable local authorities to support young people, particularly the most vulnerable, in securing a suitable learning place in which they can thrive and achieve. It gives local authorities powers to require institutions within the FE sector to provide a specified young person, aged 16-19, with education suitable to their requirements. This will be particularly important within the context of the forthcoming raised participation age in supporting young people to fulfil their duties to participate.

In exercising these powers, we would expect local authorities to consider both the individual needs of the learner and that of the institution. The power will not undermine providers' duties to safeguard and ensure the health and safety of both their staff and students. It is expected that the statutory guidance made under clause 44 will include guidance on these specific considerations. This guidance will be subject to full public consultation prior to local authorities assuming their responsibilities.

Health Education: Sex

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much and what proportion of the education budget is expected to be used for sex and relationships education in 2009-10. [293984]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold this information.

Sex and relationship education (SRE) in schools is taught as part of the statutory science curriculum and non-statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education framework. Since April 2004, it has been for schools and local authorities to decide on the level of funding to support sex and relationship education in schools taking account of local priorities.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people he estimates will register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority in each of the next five years. [295513]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

It is estimated that up to 11.3 million individuals will register with the scheme between 2010 and 2015. The phased approach expects the annual volume to be registered per annum will average out at 2.5 million per annum in years 1-4 and the residual balance in year 5.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures will be used to remove information about an individual from the Independent Safeguarding Authority's database after their death. [295512]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

There is presently no routine method of updating the Independent Safeguarding Authority of the death of any individual barred under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act. However this is an area which the Independent Safeguarding Authority intends to address.

The issue of retention of information for deceased persons is presently being explored and will be included as part of the Independent Safeguarding Authority's record retention and review policy which is presently being drafted. This policy will be published once it has been agreed.

Until a policy has been established, if the Independent Safeguarding Authority receives a report of the death of a barred individual, the record will be marked "reported deceased". These records will be processed in accordance with the record retention and review policy when this is available.

National Curriculum Tests: Disadvantaged Pupils

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils *(a)* on free school meals and *(b)* not on free school meals achieved (i) level 4 and (ii) level 5 in English at Key Stage 2 in the last year for which figures are available; [293558]

(2) how many pupils *(a)* on free school meals and *(b)* not on free school meals achieved (i) level 4 and (ii) level 5 in mathematics at Key Stage 2 in the last year for which figures are available; [293557]

(3) how many pupils *(a)* on free school meals and *(b)* not on free school meals achieved (i) level 4 and (ii) level 5 in science at Key Stage 2 in the last year for which figures are available. [293556]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information can be found in Tables 6, 7 and 8 of SFR32/2008, Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007/08. This Statistical First Release (SFR) can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000822/index.shtml

Nurseries: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery places per head of population there were in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds City area and *(c)* West Yorkshire in each year since 2005. [294026]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers. This is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places. Table 1 shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four-year-olds in Leeds West constituency, Leeds local authority and the West Yorkshire region from 2005 to 2009.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2] filled by three[3] and four[3]-year-olds, position in January each year

	Leeds West constituency	Leeds local authority	West Yorkshire[4]
2005	1,700	14,700	47,400
2006	1,600	14,[illegible]00	47,800
2007	1,700	15,200	48,900
2008	1,800	16,400	51,400
2009	1,900	17,200	53,700

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

[3] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.

[4] Includes Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield.

Source:

Early Years Census and School Census

Information on nursery school places per head of population has not been included. This is because data on places available are not collected; only data on places filled are available and as children can access their free entitlement across different areas; part time equivalent places are not on a comparable basis with the population figures. Population figures at this level of disaggregation are also not as reliable as at the national level.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293483]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information for these arms length organisations is not captured by the Department. However, we are not aware of attendance of representatives from these organisations to any of the political party conferences this year.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools have been fitted with sprinkler systems in the last 12 months. [296195]

Mr. Coaker: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 20 October, *Official Report*, column 1436, in answer to which the Department placed a list of recently completed secondary schools with and without sprinkler systems in the Libraries. The list includes the date the schools were completed and the local authority where they are situated. However, we do not hold such information for primary schools.

Schools: Inspections

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the average sum spent by schools on consultations with private companies to prepare for an Ofsted inspection in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [295173]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not available centrally. Neither the Department nor Ofsted encourage schools to prepare specifically for inspections.

Schools: Transport

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children used each means of transport to and from school in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2009 according to school census returns, broken down by local authority; [293373]

(2) how many children used each means of transport to and from school in 2009, according to school census returns. [293374]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information has been placed in the Libraries.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on walking to school initiatives in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293403]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Since 2003 the Department, in conjunction with the Department for Transport, has jointly funded the 'Travelling to School Initiative' which sets out a series of measures to support local authorities and schools encourage more children to walk, cycle or take the bus to school. In 2009-10, £14.11 million in small capital grants has been allocated to schools with approved school travel plans, supported by £6.8 million joint revenue funding of local authority based school travel advisers.

Schools: Travel

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has contributed to the Travelling to School Initiative in each year since the project's creation; how much it plans to spend on the scheme in each of the next five years; and under which budgetary headings the spending falls. [293546]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The following table details the funding the Department for Children, Schools and Families has contributed to the Travelling to School Initiative during the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 and the respective budgetary headings.

£

	Amount paid	
	Capital funding	*Programme TTSI funding*
2004-05	14,251,730	3,530,000
2005-06	22,657,923	3,530,000
2006-07	21,495,745	3,530,000
2007-08	22,704,632	3,530,000
2008-09	18,977,031	3,661,183

Final totals for 2009-10 are not yet known, however allocations of £14 million (capital) and £3.4 million (programme) have been made. We will continue to make capital funding of up to £20 million along with programme funding of £3.4 million for the financial year 2010-11 to ensure that as many schools as possible are able to participate in and benefit from the programme.

Resources beyond the current spending period (2011-12 and beyond) have not yet been determined, therefore future funding of this initiative will be dependent on and have to be managed from within the next spending review settlement.

Social Services: Children

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to increase the provision of children's services in Leeds West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [293949]

Dawn Primarolo: As with all local authorities, a Joint Improvement Support Plan is in place, and shared with partners locally. This outlines the support provided to the local authority by Government-funded partners, which provide challenge and support to LAs across a range of priority areas to increase the provision of children's services. The priority areas for Leeds currently include: safeguarding; bullying; qualifications and skills at age 19; teenage conceptions; 16 to 18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training; children's health; pupil attainment; developing services for disabled children; delivery of Sure Start Children's Centres; and emotional well-being.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged Pupils

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were eligible for free school meals had a statement of special educational needs in each local authority area in 1997. [293375]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is not available.

Data on pupils with special educational needs and free school meal eligibility have been collected at pupil level since 2002. Prior to this we are unable to determine which pupils with statements of special educational needs were eligible for free school meals.

Young People: Care Homes

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Health the matter of the security of young people in local authority care homes. [295521]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: DCSF are responsible for all policies relating to children's homes. All children's homes must comply with regulations and National Minimum Standards. These require that premises must be fit and suitable for achieving the homes statement of purpose. Every home must be secure from unauthorised access. This could include for example using electronic surveillance to monitor those who enter and leave the premises or having ground floor windows that can only be opened part way.

Where a local authority looks after a child, including those that may have been trafficked, then they are responsible for identifying a placement that will be appropriate to meeting their needs, including their need to be kept safe from any likely harm.

On 1 July 2009, we published new 'Statutory Guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care'. This sets out the measures local authorities must take whenever a child that they look after goes missing from their care placement and includes specific information about managing support for especially vulnerable groups of looked after children—such as those asylum seeking children who may have been trafficked into the UK.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Betting: Internet

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to raise awareness of the Horserace Betting Levy Board's advice on use of overseas-based betting operators who do not make levy payments in respect of online business. [295109]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I meet regularly with representatives of the Horserace Betting Levy Board to discuss matters which affect the levy, including securing contributions from a wider range of operators. However, it is for the Horserace Betting Levy Board to decide what advice to give to racing and how to disseminate that advice.

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the integrity of sporting events of overseas-based online betting operators operating in the UK outside Gambling Commission regulations. [295110]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have asked Rick Parry to report to me on the issue of sports betting integrity and to make recommendations. If any of those relate to overseas-based online betting operators, I will wish to take that into account when considering options resulting from the separate review of remote gambling regulation.

Casinos

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to announce the results of his review of the slot machine to table ratios of small and large casinos. [295633]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Regulations to define what will constitute a gaming table for the purposes of sections 172(4) and 172(5) of the Gambling Act 2005, which set out the gaming machine entitlements that apply to large and small casino premise licences, were laid before Parliament on 20 July 2009 and came into force on 11 August 2009.

The Department also wrote to industry stakeholders and the relevant local authorities on 21 July 2009 to notify them of the new regulations. A summary of the responses to the public consultation that ran between 23 February and 15 May 2009 was published on the Department's website on 27 July 2009.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agency *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agency (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [295446]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The then Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham), hosted a Christmas reception for the Department's non-departmental public bodies in December 2008 and a reception for journalists.

The annual staff party at DCMS is self-funded by staff, and any profits made are donated to the DCMS Civil Service Sports and Social Club account. Information on functions that the Minister and officials attended could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has only one executive agency, The Royal Parks (TRP). TRP hosted an event for its stakeholders in December 2008.

TRP also held its annual staff Christmas party which was paid for by TRP Directors and not the public purse. TRP staff were invited to the Winter Wonderland fair in Hyde Park by the organiser of the event.

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment: Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in staff costs by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in each of the last five years. [295102]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

	£
2004-05	3,805,441
2005-06	4,514,700
2006-07	5,006,935
2007-08	5,878,202
2008-09	6,525,985

The staff costs of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) are published each year in its annual report. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses and they are also available on CABE's website at:

www.cabe.org.uk

Community Amateur Sports Clubs Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of eligible sports clubs have joined the community amateur sports club scheme in each year since it was introduced. [294753]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To the end of August 2009, 5,424 clubs had registered as community amateur sports clubs (CASCs). The yearly breakdown since the scheme was introduced is in the table. We do not hold figures on the number of sport clubs that are eligible to become CASCs:

	New clubs registering	*Total registrations*
2003	557	557
2004	1,447	2,004
2005	1,500	3,504
2006	637	4,141
2007	387	4,528
2008	550	5,078
2009	346	5,424

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff were employed by his Department for work on heritage matters in each year since 2004-05. [292304]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* Information on the headcount is set out in the table. These figures represent the position at the end of each financial year. The variation in the number of employees working on heritage matters is due to the transfer of areas of responsibility to other divisions within the Department, as well as restructuring and efficiency savings undertaken within the division.

	Employee numbers	*Total headcount*	*Percentage of total headcount*
2004-05	38	510	7.5
2005-06	37	512	7.2
2006-07	36	517	6.9
2007-08	30	492	6.1
2008-09	26	459	5.7

Departmental Logos

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what methodology was used to reach the decision to refresh his Department's logo in April 2006; which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials were involved in that process; and what steps have been taken to monitor the effectiveness of the refreshment. [294919]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department decided there was a need for a brand refresh as non-specialist audiences did not recognise our logo and it did not clearly communicate our role. Creative solutions were required to address issues around brand recognition, explaining the responsibilities of the department, and to ensure visual consistency across all applications.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) and former DCMS Permanent Secretary, Sue Street, oversaw the process.

Due to a limited budget it would not represent value for money to have a dedicated monitoring resource.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department incurred in refreshing its logo in April 2006. [294920]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The costs were as follows:

Initial design concepts:	£3,055
Identity design development:	£10,460
Identity guidelines:	£10,800
Total:	£24,315.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how his Department assesses value for money achieved in the consistency and distinctiveness of its communications. [294921]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Value for money is achieved by using consistent design templates wherever possible, for communications material based on the DCMS brand guidelines in order to reduce design costs.

Due to limited budgets, the Department does not have resources for any wider evaluation.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 408W, on departmental logos, what his definition of his Department's wider visual identity is; what measures he uses to assess the contribution of the logo to *(a)* explaining the work of his Department and *(b)* the consistency and distinctiveness of its communications; and what assessment he has made of the impact and success of this identity. [294962]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The wider visual identity includes consistent and distinct brand colours and typefaces. There are also straplines to explain the work of the Department available to use in several design templates. On the contribution of the logo to the Department's communications, aside from the initial branding research undertaken, due to limited budgets the Department does not have the resources for any wider evaluation.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294976]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not operate any helplines and therefore does not receive anything for the operation.

Gambling Commission: Manpower

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees the Gambling Commission has; and how many employees the Gaming Board for Great Britain had in 2004. [295191]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* As at 21 October 2009, the Gambling Commission employed 221 employees. In 2004, the Gaming Board for Great Britain employed an average of 76 employees.

The two figures are not directly comparable. The Gambling Act 2005 gave the new Gambling Commission a wider range of statutory functions than the Gaming Board. These include, for example, responsibilities in respect of the betting industry and remote gambling. It also has wider powers concerning the conduct of criminal investigations and as a prosecuting authority.

Gambling Commission: Office of the National Lottery

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to merge the Gambling Commission with the Lottery Regulator. [295631]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* I have no current plans to do so, although as a matter of course we keep the structure and role of our NDPBs under review, to ensure that they are delivering agreed objectives in a cost-effective way.

Gambling: Internet

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking to restrict access to online gambling sites which do not meet the regulatory requirements applied to gambling establishments located in UK premises; [295234]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that online gambling sites available in the UK operate under the same regulatory regime as gambling establishments located in UK premises. [295235]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Online gambling websites licensed by the Gambling Commission are subject to the regulatory requirements set out in the Gambling Act, its secondary legislation and the Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP).

Gambling entitlements, such as the types of products offered and stake and prize levels, differ between those permitted in premises-based establishments and those offered via remote means, just as gambling entitlements differ between different types of premises.

I have no plans at the current time to limit the products offered by online gambling operators so that they mirror those offered on the high street. However, the Department is currently exploring ways to ensure that online gambling sites licensed outside of Great Britain offer the same levels of consumer protection that are afforded to UK consumers as a result of the Gambling Act, to help ensure greater fairness between British businesses and their overseas counterparts.

Horse Racing: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to announce his decision on the 2009 Horseracing Levy. [295558]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The Horserace Betting Levy Board announced the 2009-10 Levy Scheme on 31 October 2008. Subsequently it announced the 2010-11 scheme on the 28 April 2009.

International Olympic Committee

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* Ministers and officials from his Department and *(b)* officials from his Department's sponsored bodies attended the International Olympic Committee conference in October 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [295295]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No Ministers or officials from the Department attended the International Olympic Committee congress in Copenhagen in October.

UK Sport have advised that two of their officials attended this event in October at a cost of £1,397.00.

Monitor Consultancy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether any Ministers or officials in his Department have had *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts with the Monitor Group in the last five years. [295112]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No DCMS Ministers have been in contact with the Monitor Group on departmental business and the department is not aware of any meetings with officials.

Publications: Sight Impaired

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the Government has provided for the translation and production of Braille editions of books in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [293055]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has provided the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) with £200,000 per year for each of the past five years, to support them in their production of Braille materials.

The Department of Trade and Industry (now Business, Innovation and Skills) brought together publishers and the RNIB to increase the amount of content available in accessible formats (Braille, large print and synthetic audio). This directly led to an ongoing pilot project which also addresses the need for accessible versions to be available close to publication dates of the normal print version.

The Dolphin Inclusive Consortium won an open tender to trial different formats of curriculum materials for blind and visually impaired pupils. The pilot will run during the 2009-10 school year then report back to DCSF. Staffing at the Consortium includes a part-time secondee from RNIB.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of books published in the UK which were *(a)* available in Braille and *(b)* produced as audio books in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293056]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not keep records of the number of books available in other formats.

We are aware that the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) claim that less than 5 per cent. of books are available in accessible formats. However, e-books with the potential to use text-to-speech promises to radically change this situation. The Publishers' Association is working to resolve licensing issues that are frustrating use of this technology after some authors' agents complained that publishers do not own the rights to the new format.

Recreation Spaces: VAT

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has held with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a derogation from EU law to allow a reduction in value added tax on the hire of sports facilities; and if he will make a statement. [295364]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no recent discussions at ministerial level. However, departmental officials have recently raised this issue with their counterparts in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, following representations from stakeholders.

Sport England: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have accessed Sport England's Active Places website in each year since its establishment; how much has been spent on the website in each such year; and what assessment has been made of the performance of the website against its objectives. [295753]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Sport England advise that they do not record the number of 'hits' on the Active Places website. Instead, they record only the number of visitors using the tools and applications on the site. Figures provided by Sport England for the years since its establishment are as follows:

Unique users

	Number
2004	59,660
2005	161,506
2006	204,348
2007	218,378
2008	114,270

The Active Places website was launched in July 2004 and therefore the figures for that year are significantly smaller than for the other years.

Sport England advise that the website has cost the following amounts each year since its establishment:

	Cost (£ million)
2004-05	1.98
2005-06	0.877
2006-07	1.1
2007-08	1.0
2008-09[1]	0.896

[1] Estimate.

The Active Places website provides information on sporting facilities in England, but also provides a number of benefits for other organisations. Performance is assessed on an ongoing basis, which helps to inform plans to expand Active Places alongside feedback received from users of the website.

Sporting Events: Finance

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contribution his Department has made to the cost of the bid to host *(a)* the 2018 Football World Cup, *(b)* the 2005 Rugby Football World Cup, *(c)* the 2014 Commonwealth Games and *(d)* the 2013 Rugby League World Cup; what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of holding each such event in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [295374]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has made no financial contribution to the costs of bids to host the FIFA World Cup, the 2015 Rugby World Cup, the 2014 Commonwealth Games or the 2013 Rugby League World Cup, although there have been discussions with the FA about a potential loan in support of their bid.

The economic impact of events can be significant. To take them in order *(a)* the 2018 Bid Company have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to produce an economic impact assessment; this has estimated a boost to the economy of between £2.1 billion and £3.2 billion; *(b)* the International Rugby Board have published a report predicting potential economic benefits of up to £2.1 billion for a Rugby World Cup in 2015; *(c)* the Glasgow Commonwealth Games organisers are estimating the creation of 1200 jobs; and *(d)* the Rugby Football League are working with development agencies to assess the impact of the 2013 World Cup, though research shows one Melbourne match at the 2008 World Cup generated a boost to the Victoria's gross state product of 15.6 million Australian dollars.

Sports: Corporation Tax

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on an exemption from corporation tax for national sport governing bodies; and if he will make a statement. [295363]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department most recently submitted this proposal to the Treasury as one of its tax proposals for the Budget 2009.

Sports: Females

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what targets Sport England has set each of the sports governing bodies on increasing levels of participation of women and girls in sport; and how much funding has been allocated for this purpose in each case. [294749]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of their target of getting 1 million people doing more sport by 2012-13, Sport England includes an emphasis on the need to encourage women and girls to participate in sport.

Over the period 2009-12 Sport England will invest £480 million in the national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport to deliver increases in participation within their individual sports. While Sport England has not set specific targets for NGBs on increasing participation among particular groups of people, funding levels for the sports were in part assessed on the strength of their strategic plans to deliver on increased participation amongst women, black and minority ethnic groups, and disabled people.

Furthermore, Sport England, acting as a centre of best practice and working with their national partners, are committed to continuing to help NGBs deliver and to push them to do as much as possible to deliver for these groups. In the particular case of women and girls, funded and supported by Sport England, the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation is actively engaged with all of the NGBs, working in a consultancy capacity to advise the individual NGBs on best practice for increasing women's participation in sport.

For the NGBs, developing the girls' and women's game, disability sport, and reaching out to diverse communities is not an optional extra but a vital part of what they are required to do. If any sport does not accept this challenge, Sport England will switch their funding to those that do.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps *(a)* Sport England and *(b)* the Youth Sport Trust is taking to encourage women and girls to participate in sport. [294751]

Mr. Sutcliffe: One of the key ambitions at Sport England is to help partners such as governing bodies to deliver sporting opportunities to as many people as possible, including women and girls. Through Sport England's investment process each national governing body of sport (NGB) was asked to produce a Whole Sport Plan outlining the ways in which they intend to drive up participation within their specific sport from 2009-13. Funding levels for the sports were in part assessed on the strength of their strategic plans to deliver on increased participation among women, black and minority ethnic groups, and disabled people.

To support NGBs in the design and delivery of provision to encourage women and girls to participate in sport, NGBs now receive tailored support from the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation (WSFF). Funded and supported by Sport England, the WSFF is actively engaged with each of the NGBs, working in a consultancy capacity to advise the individual NGBs on best practice for increasing women's participation in sport.

Sport England is also ensuring that new funding streams, such as the Themed Rounds and the Innovation Fund, support the development of women's participation in sport.

The Sport Unlimited programme, a Sport England funded initiative, which aims to increase opportunities for children and young people aged five to 19 to participate regularly in sport, also targets girls to take part. The latest statistics show that 49 per cent. of girls versus 51 per cent. of boys have so far taken up this scheme.

As with Sport England, all Youth Sport Trust programmes are inclusive, although a number have been specifically developed as tools to support the work of schools to increase girls' participation, involvement and enjoyment of physical education and sport.

GirlsActive, launched in 2006, is an initiative designed to empower teenage girls to enjoy more sporting activity on their own terms. Seven centres have now been established across the country, which are driving the work around increasing girls' participation within each of their own regions. The regional centres are a joint approach between the Sports College and the School Sport Partnership.

The Sports College lead on high quality PE and curriculum innovation work and the School Sport Partnership drive the implementation and innovation of an agreed regional delivery plan to increase girls' participation across the region. Over 20,000 girls have been reached since September 2008.

JUSTICE

Advocacy: Qualifications

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of regulation of companies offering representatives without appropriate legal qualifications to represent parties in employment tribunals; and if he will make a statement. [294924]

Bridget Prentice: Parties attending employment tribunals are not required to have representation, legal or otherwise and if they wish to use a representative it is a matter for them, and there is no requirement for the representative to be legally qualified. However, all businesses who represent claimant parties in employment tribunals must be authorised under the Compensation Act 2006, (unless they are exempted), and are required to comply with strict rules of conduct which includes a requirement that they are competent to provide the claims management service. The impact of regulation has been independently assessed on an annual basis since regulation commenced in April 2007. The latest report concluded that in the employment sector

> "there has been no significant impact of regulation".

However, to make a significant impact on poor quality representation, the report proposes that competency tests would be required, which would take years to establish and more resources being devoted by the Regulator. We are currently considering the findings of the report with key stakeholders.

Aleksey Baranovsky

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service have taken in response to the report of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman on the circumstances surrounding the death of a prisoner at HMP Rye Hill; and what plans he has to respond to the recommendation of the Ombudsman on further investigations in relation to the death of Aleksey Baranovsky. [295489]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) drew up an action plan in response to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's 22 recommendations following Mr. Baranovsky's death in 2006 at HMP Rye Hill. 18 of the recommendations have been fully addressed, including those to do with further investigations. The remaining four were referred to Primecare, the healthcare provider at the time of Mr. Baranovsky's death, who have failed to respond. Following the death, the contract with Primecare was terminated.

Approved Premises: Females

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bail and safe accommodation places are available for women in England and Wales. [295203]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice provides funding for 129 places for women within approved premises and 104 places for women through the bail accommodation and support service. In addition, a range of other providers exist at local level including partnerships between probation areas, local authorities and the third sector which provide accommodation for women but information on the numbers involved is not held centrally.

Copyright: Music

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2018W, on copyright: music, how many actions have been brought under section 107 of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 for copying from one medium to another; what proportion of such actions resulted in a criminal conviction; and if he will make a statement. [296186]

Claire Ward: Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice combines offences under Section 107 of the 1988 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act with other similar offences under that Act. It is therefore not possible to provide prosecutions and convictions specifically under Section 107.

The following tables, for the years 1988 to 2007 (latest available) show the number of prosecutions and convictions in England and Wales where Section 107 may have been used. Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Copying from one media to another becomes a criminal offence under Section 107 of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 only if conducted on a scale prejudicial to the interests of the legitimate rights holder, or in the course of business.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under section 107 of the 1988 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, England and Wales, 1988 to 2007[1, 2]

	Proceeded against									
Offence	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*
Makes, imports or distributes illicit recordings. Makes for sale or hire, imports possesses or distributes articles which infringes copyright.[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	219	154	78
Other offences[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	1	110	39	91
Person infringes copyright in a work by communicating the work to the public[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	329	193	169

Offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Makes, imports or distributes illicit recordings. Makes for sale or hire, imports possesses or distributes articles which infringes copyright.[3]	86	65	72	59	38	47	65	107	132	176
Other offences[4]	72	87	79	51	59	56	51	62	130	253
Person infringes copyright in a work by communicating the work to the public[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	16	33
Total	158	152	151	110	97	103	122	185	278	462

	Found guilty									
Offence	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*
Makes, imports or distributes illicit recordings. Makes for sale or hire, imports possesses or distributes articles which infringes copyright.[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	151	125	73
Other offences[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	1	87	35	74
Person infringes copyright in a work by communicating the work to the public[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	238	160	147

Offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Makes, imports or distributes illicit recordings. Makes for sale or hire, imports possesses or distributes articles which infringes copyright.[3]	62	45	51	51	26	40	44	85	109	132
Other offences[4]	48	66	53	47	45	37	39	55	88	169
Person infringes copyright in a work by communicating the work to the public[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	13	10	30
Total	110	111	104	98	71	77	89	153	207	331

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Ministry of Justice cannot separate offences relating to Section 107 from those under section 198.

[4] The Ministry of Justice cannot separate offences relating to Section 107 from those under other sections of the Act. Statutes covered by this offence are as follows:

Section 107 (1)(c), (1)(d)(i) and (ii) and (iii) Section 107 (2)(a), (2)(b), (3)(a) and (3)(b)
Section 198 (1)(c), (1)(d)(i) and (ii) and (iii) Section 198 (2)(a) and (b)
Section 201 (1)
Section 276 (1) (a) and (b) Section 276 (2)(a) and (b) Section 276 (3) (a) and (b)
Section 279 (3)
Section 297 (1)

[5] Includes S.107 2A and 4A as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg 26 (1)

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2018W, on copyright: music, how many civil actions have been brought for offences related to copying music stored on a compact disc to a digital format for personal use in each of the last 20 years; what proportion of such actions resulted in a criminal conviction; and if he will make a statement. [296187]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice does not hold any statistical information about civil actions being brought specifically for offences related to copying music stored on a compact disc to a digital format for personal use.

This is because the administrative computer systems used in courts do not presently identify this specific dispute type. While the relevant cases will be logged on the system, they cannot be distinguished from other types of actions brought to court. Obtaining the information requested would require the inspection of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

However, we do hold information in relation to the number of claims relating to copyright and design right issued in the Chancery Division of the Royal Courts of Justice, figures from 2004 to 2008 (the latest available figures) are shown in the following table.

Claims relating to copyright and design right issued in the Chancery Division of the Royal Courts of Justice in London, 2004-08

	Number
2004	195
2005	148
2006	120
2007	172
2008	286

Source: Chancery chambers, bespoke contribution for this publication.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on which occasions public funding was made available to assist the legal representation of bereaved families at inquest proceedings relating to the deaths of service personnel in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and what the cost to his Department was on each occasion. [294957]

Bridget Prentice: Legal aid for representation is not usually available for inquests because an inquest is a fact-finding process and not adversarial. The Coroners' system has been designed to function without the need for interested persons to be legally represented, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional legal aid funding can be granted by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) on the recommendation of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) for representation at inquests, if the criteria are met.

In 2006 funding was granted on two occasions, totalling £32,541.65

In 2007 funding was granted on two occasions, totalling £37,089.78

In 2008 funding was granted on four occasions, totalling £80,496.83.

Case management is delegated to the LSC, so the final amounts agreed by the LSC may differ from the amount granted.

The MOJ has provided legal aid in every inquest into the deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan where the LSC has recommended it.

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the prison population of full implementation of section 26 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. [293617]

Mr. Straw: Section 26 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 deals with "Release of certain long-term prisoners under Criminal Justice Act 1991". This was expected to have an impact on the prison population, and the impact was included in the projections of prison population published in September 2008 and August 2009. Copies are in the House Libraries.

The impact of section 26 was estimated to gradually reduce the prison population from the commencement of the section in June 2008, reaching a reduction of around 400 in August 2009. After then the impact gradually reduces by around 100 per year to 2012, and then reduces more slowly to around 40 by 2015. The impact reduces after 2009 because there are fewer and fewer prisoners sentenced under the 1991 Act, which was replaced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect on *(a)* the number of sentences and *(b)* the average sentence length of full implementation of section 21 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. [293618]

Mr. Straw: Section 21 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act deals with "Credit for period of remand on bail: terms of imprisonment and detention". It allows the courts discretion to direct that up to half the number of days spent on tagged bail will count as time served against a subsequent custodial sentence. The credit is made on a similar, but not identical basis as remand to custody. It was expected that this measure would have no impact on the number or length of sentences given by the courts.

Departmental Advertising

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on which initiatives of his Department and its predecessor and its agencies expenditure on advertising has been incurred in each of the last five years; how much was spent on each such initiative; and which such initiatives were offered for tender through the Central Office of Information. [292529]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice was formed in May 2007 to take forward the work of the Department for Constitutional Affairs together with significant additional responsibilities transferring from the Home Office. These included the National Offender Management Service, which covers the Prison and Probation Services, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The figures in the following table therefore relate to the Department for Constitutional Affairs where the financial years fall prior to 2007-08 and the Ministry of Justice on or after the 2007-08 year.

The nature of the Ministry of Justice's activities is such that it does not engage in significant levels of advertising on initiatives. More than 95 per cent. of departmental advertising spend is on recruitment, mainly by Human Resources (HQ and NOMS). To provide information for individual recruitment advertising campaigns would incur disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

NOMS, which has responsibility for the prison and probation systems, has spent the following non-recruitment related amounts on advertising, external publicity and broadcasting. Amounts relating to specific advertising initiatives cannot be separately quantified.

Advertising expenditure

	£000
2004-05[1]	0
2005-06[1]	36
2006-07[1]	17
2007-08[1]	31
2008-09[2]	281

[1] The figure for 2008-09 is for NOMS HQ and HMPS but excludes the 42 local probation boards and trusts within NOMS as this information is held locally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost. The figures obtained for the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08 is for HM Prison Service (HMPS) agency only. They exclude NOMS HQ (previously a directorate within the parent department the Home Office) and the National Probation Service (NPS) which are now part of the NOMS agency.

[2] The 2008-09 figures are therefore not comparable to previous years. It would be disproportionate cost to obtain figures for both NOMS and the NPS for 2004-05 to 2007-08. Furthermore, it would incur disproportionate cost to investigate what advertising initiatives make up the figures in the table.

The expenditure on recruitment for the NOMS Agency in 2008-09 is £3,409,968, mainly on recruitment of prison officers. This figure may include other recruitment expenditure not considered to be publicity and advertising. Work to split out publicity and advertising spend from the total recruitment amount would incur disproportionate cost.

The stated figure for NOMS excludes expenditure by the 42 local probation boards and trusts whose records are held locally and could only be collated at disproportionate cost. A one-off exercise undertaken in 2007-08 found that expenditure on advertising and promotion by local probation boards and trusts was £58,264. There are no current plans to repeat this information-gathering exercise for 2008-09.

Headquarters and other agencies

For the rest of the department, the Ministry's central accounting records do not distinguish different types of advertising expenditure. To determine what expenditure relates to requires retrieval and examination of individual invoices and records held locally across the organisation.

Advertising, publicity and communications expenditure over the last five years is set out with some of the expenditure for advertising in recruitment. However, not all of the expenditure on recruitment advertising is included since it is not separately quantifiable from the accounts. The Criminal Justice Group, which is part of the Ministry's headquarters, was formed from various Home Office functions transferred to the Ministry in April 2007. It is not possible to extract historical information for the Criminal Justice Group from the Home Office's records prior to 2008-09, meaning that the figures for Headquarters are not directly comparable between the financial years.

	HQ[1] (£000)	*HM Courts Service (£000)*	*Tribunals Service (Thousand)*	*Office of the Public Guardian[2] (Thousand)*
2004-05[3]	2,470	65	0	0
2005-06[3]	4,023	1,049	0	0
2006-07[3]	692	450	33	0
2007-08[3]	610	270	127	14
2008-09	1,976	486	41	39

[1] For 2008-09 and 2007-08, headquarters relates to the Ministry of Justice. Prior to 2007-08, headquarters relates to the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

[2] The Office of the Public Guardian was established from 1 October 2007. Its predecessor body was the Public Guardianship Office.

[3] It is not possible to extract historical information for the Criminal Justice Group from the Home Office's records prior to 2008-09, meaning that the figures for Headquarters are not directly comparable between the financial years.

Business groups have identified the expenditure on specific advertising initiatives detailed as follows. These figures have already been accounted for in the figures within the table.

Democracy, Constitution and Law (DCL)

Total advertising expenditure for all years from 2004-05 to 2008-09 is £573,564 on the following initiatives:

Law Commission
Information Commissioner's Office
Elections and Democracy
Information Policy

It would incur disproportionate cost to split the expenditure between the four categories.

Criminal Justice Group (CJG)

The two main advertising initiatives which are continuing are:

Victims Sup
Intimidated Witness

The advertising expenditure for these two initiatives is not separately identifiable from the rest of the publicity and advertising expenditure of the CJG and it would be at disproportionate cost to undertake this exercise.

Access to Justice

The vast majority of advertising expenditure was incurred by HM Courts Service (an agency of Access to Justice) for the Operation Payback initiative. The costs incurred is as follows:

	£
2005-06	252,000
2006-07	[1]21,000
2007-08	2,110

[1] via the Central Office of Information

Tribunals Service

2007-08: £204 was spent on the launch of the Welsh Language Scheme.

Central Office of Information

The Ministry's accounting records identify all amounts paid to the Central Office of Information (COI). They do not, however, separately identify those amounts relating to advertising initiatives and it would be at disproportionate cost to investigate.

The Office of the Public Guardian has incurred no expenditure with COI.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291613]

Mr. Straw: Information is provided for the two financial years since the Ministry's formation.

The expenditure on hire vehicles for 2008-09 is:

	£
The Ministry of Justice HQ	731,311
HM Courts Service	661,236
Tribunals Service	16,078
Total	1,408,625

The expenditure on hire vehicles for 2007-08 is:

	£
The Ministry of Justice HQ	829,740
HM Courts Service	838,488
Tribunals Service	18,885
Total	1,687,113

The Office of the Public Guardian and the National Offender Management Service Agency cannot separately identify expenditure on vehicle hire from within their accounting system and their expenditure is not included. Furthermore, the figures provided may be incomplete because there may be expenditure on hire vehicles assigned to generic travel and subsistence codes which cannot be separately identified from the accounting system.

To collate the information for the constituent parts of Government that were merged to form the Ministry of Justice for the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294983]

Bridget Prentice: Ministry of Justice operates the following 11 helplines either directly or through its Executive Agencies: National Offender Management Service Victim Helpline, Home Detention Curfew and Release on Temporary Licence Helpline, National Mediation Helpline, Family Mediation Helpline, Sentence Calculation Helpline, Prisoners' Families Helpline, Prisoners Abroad Helpline, Nacro Resettlement Plus Helpline, Her Majesty's Courts Service Bulk Centre Helpdesks, Office of the Public Guardian Helpline, the Land Registry telephone service.

In addition the Legal Services Commission (a non-departmental public body of the Ministry of Justice) operates the following three helplines: Community Legal Advice, Criminal Defence Service Direct and the Duty Solicitor Call Centre.

The Department continually reviews the provision and usage of its helplines to ensure that they meet the needs of their users and to ensure that value for money is optimised in respect of these services.

Three of these helplines operated revenue sharing agreements with their telecoms providers in respect of their telephone services.

The Land Registry received the following sums:

	Revenue received (£)
2006-07	221,543
2007-08	164,787
2008-09	40,026

This arrangement ceased in February 2008. The sum received in 2008-09 is a rebate figure relating to the previous year.

Her Majesty's Courts Service Bulk Centre Helpdesks received the following sums:

	Revenue received (£)
2006-07	7,684.14
2007-08	8,075.97
2008-09	10,338.68

The Legal Services Commission received the following sums in respect of the Community Legal Advice helpline:

	Revenue received (£)
2006-07	7,019.08
2007-08	9,697.36
2008-09	17,597.00

Injunctions

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance the judiciary issues on the circumstances in which injunctive orders may be granted in such a way as to conceal the identity of the claimant; and if he will make a statement; [295030]

(2) what *(a)* guidance issued to the judiciary and *(b)* rules of procedure in operation to the courts govern the issuance of injunctive orders; and what provision is made in each case in respect of the qualified privilege to report parliamentary proceedings. [295032]

Mr. Straw: The judiciary is independent of the Government and so the Government do not issue guidance to it.

I understand that the judiciary has not issued guidance on the circumstances when an injunction may be granted in terms that conceal the identity of the claimant. The procedure to be followed to obtain an injunction is specified in the relevant rules of court. None of these rules refer to parliamentary privilege. Whether or not an injunction should be issued and, if so, the terms in which it will be issued are governed by the general law of England and Wales. This includes the qualified privilege to report parliamentary proceedings and the absolute privilege enjoyed by Members of Parliament in respect of parliamentary proceedings. The Bill of Rights provides that the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament may not be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received a request to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry. [293561]

Mr. Straw: I refer to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's answer on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1210W.

Prisoners Release

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences have been committed by offenders recalled to prison from release on licence but who remained at large since 2000. [295885]

Maria Eagle: There is no central record of the number of offences committed by offenders during the period following the revocation of their licence and their apprehension and return to custody.

If an offender has not been returned to custody following recall and is known to have committed a further offence, the police responsible for apprehending the offender will be aware of the revocation of the offender's licence because the Police' National Computer holds the details of all outstanding licence revocations.

Prisoners Transfers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many temporary transfers of prisoners between prisons in England and Wales have taken place in each year since 1997; and for what reason each transfer was authorised. [295323]

Maria Eagle: Transfers of prisoners between prisons take place daily for a variety of reasons and for varying lengths of time. Reasons may include, for example, temporary moves on compassionate grounds; or to allow visits to take place; or to take part in particular regime activities. Information on the number and reasons for every temporary transfer of a prisoner is not recorded centrally. On 20 October 2009, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) made a statement to the House asking Her Majesty's chief inspector of prisons to work with the Ministry of Justice director of analytical services to investigate whether any temporary transfer of prisoners had occurred before an inspection by Her Majesty's chief inspector of prisons. The results of this investigation will be made available in due course.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of exercise women in *(a)* a normal prison environment and *(b)* prison mother and baby units receive each week. [295204]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not available. However, figures are available for the percentage of women prisoners attending physical education. During the period April to September 2009, an average of 50.3 per cent. of women prisoners were attending structured physical education. This is a rise from 50 per cent. in 2008-09 and 43.1 per cent. in 2007-08.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what diet is provided for women in *(a)* prison mother and baby units and *(b)* women's prisons. [295214]

Maria Eagle: All prisons, including those with women prisoners, provide multi-choice pre-select menus from which prisoners make their individual choices. Each prison devises a menu based on a number of factors including gender and age.

Detailed catering guidance is provided to all prisons. The guidance includes sample menus for women prisoners together with nutritional analysis. The document also contains specific advice and guidance to catering staff relating to pregnant women and mothers in prison mother and baby units and women who have recently given birth and/or who are nursing mothers. Pregnant women, mothers in mother and baby units and women who have recently given birth and/or who are nursing mothers will normally make choices from the daily menu, with any required additional supplements provided by health care staff to meet their individual and specific needs.

Prisons: Construction

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what he expects the additional running costs of the capacity added by his Department's prison capacity building programme to be in each year to 2014-15. [295818]

Maria Eagle: The estimated annual running cost of the capacity provided as part of the Core Capacity Programme is around £480 million, once the programme has been completed. The Core Capacity Programme is expected to be complete by 2012.

This figure excludes the running costs of the proposed new 1,500 place prisons.

The procurement process for the five 1,500 capacity prisons, known as the New Prisons Programme, is already under way. An OJEU notice to establish a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Framework for firms who could design, build and operate these prisons was published on 3 August 2009. This is designed to allow private sector innovation into the full lifecycle of the prisons construction and operation. As such, the running costs will differ for each provider, each site and depend upon the function of the prison. At this early stage in our procurement it is not possible to reveal the estimated running costs from the New Prisons element of the Capacity Programme.

Prisons: Convictions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for smuggling or attempting to smuggle (i) mobile telephones, (ii) drugs and (iii) other contraband into prisons in each year since 1997. [294215]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Act, as amended by the Offender Management Act, defines the criminal offence and penalties for smuggling contraband such as mobile phones, drugs and weapons into prisons. The Offender Management Act strengthened the penalties for smuggling contraband, and made it a specific offence with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment to bring a mobile phone or component part into a prison.

To provide the information requested would require contact with all Prison Service establishments, requesting a check of their local records. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Manpower

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers have been employed *(a)* in total and *(b)* full-time (i) as at 31 March in each year since 1997 and (ii) on 31 January 2009. [295654]

Maria Eagle: Information on the total and full-time number of prison officers and prison custody officers in each year since 1997 is contained in the table. The information covers both public sector and contracted establishments and public sector headquarters functions.

Prison officers and prison custody officers, 1997 to 2009

Date	*Full-time*	*Part-time*[1]	*Total*	*Full-time equivalent*
31 March 1997	18,340	—	18,340	18,340
31 March 1998	18,595	—	18,595	18,595
31 March 1999	19,156	—	19,156	19,156
31 March 2000	19,280	—	19,280	19,280
31 March 2001	18,782	184	18,966	18,874
31 March 2002	18,028	301	18,329	18,179
31 March 2003	18,387	410	18,797	18,592
31 March 2004	20,000	533	20,533	20,324
31 March 2005	20,604	659	21,263	20,995
31 March 2006	20,990	716	21,706	21,412
31 March 2007	21,226	850	22,076	21,724
31 March 2008	21,656	985	22,641	22,226
31 January 2009	21,812	1,100	22,912	22,449
31 March 2009	22,112	1,156	23,268	22,789

[1] Full-time/part-time split is not available prior to 2001.

Sexual Offences: Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted sex offenders are resident in approved premises in England and Wales. [295841]

Maria Eagle: The number of sex offenders accommodated in approved premises in England and Wales will change on a daily basis. Offenders are managed in approved premises according to the risk of harm they currently present rather than their offending history, and it is on that basis that information is collated centrally. Statistical information about the type of offences committed by offenders residing in approved premises at any one time is therefore not collated centrally.

Approved premises provide for enhanced and effective supervision of certain high risk of harm offenders on release from custody which would be much more difficult to achieve if such offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community.

Tribunals: Legal Aid

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on which tribunals of inquiry public funding was made available to assist the legal representation of bereaved families in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and what the annual cost to his Department was of each such inquiry. [295033]

Bridget Prentice: Although the Ministry of Justice has policy responsibility for the Inquiries Act 2005, it does not have a central operational responsibility for inquiries established under the Act. Nor does it have any operational responsibility for public inquiries either established before the Act came into force or established on a non-statutory basis. The costs of any such inquiry, including those on legal representation for the parties to the inquiry, fall to the sponsor Department and central records of expenditure are not kept.

Witnesses: Elderly and Mentally Ill

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps HM Courts Service takes to support *(a)* older people and *(b)* people with mental health problems when appearing as witnesses in court proceedings. [294915]

Claire Ward: Standard 25 of The Witness Charter requires the defence or prosecution in criminal proceedings to ask court staff to make provision for any special needs which a witness may have as a result of a disability, medical condition or age, which mean that they need help attending court or in giving evidence.

Section 8.4 of the Code of Practice for victims of crime places a statutory obligation on court staff to ensure that, where possible, at criminal proceedings in respect of relevant criminal conduct victims have, and are directed to, a separate waiting area and a seat in the courtroom away from the defendant's family or friends.

The HMCS Reasonable Adjustments Guidance states that adjustments must be made for all court users, including witnesses, who are protected by the Disability Discrimination Act, which covers those with mental health problems. This could involve altering a procedure or practice for the benefit of the court user. The guidance can be viewed at:

http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/files/HMCSReasonableAdiustmentsGuidance.pdf

The HMCS Disability Advice Factsheets include a section on court users who have mental health problems. This provides communication suggestions for providing a service to customers with a disability. The document can be viewed at:

http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/tiles/HMCSDisabilityAdviceFactsheets.pdf

with the section on mental health on pages 10-11.

The Judicial Studies Board's Equal Treatment Benchbook has a chapter on disabilities which refers to mental health frequently (section 5). Section 5.3 is devoted entirely to the topic of mental disability, with 5.3.3 referring specifically to mentally disabled witnesses. This document can be viewed at:

http://www.jsboard.co.Uk/downloads/etbb/5_disability_09vl.pdf

The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 provides a range of special measures to support vulnerable and intimidated witnesses when giving evidence in court.

Vulnerable witnesses include children and also adults who suffer from a mental disorder or otherwise have a significant impairment of social functioning. Witnesses in fear or distress of testifying may also receive assistance from special measures and when determining such applications the court must take into account a number of factors including the age of the witness. It is a matter for the court to decide which, if any, of the special measures will be available to any particular witness.

The special measure provisions include:

Evidence by live link from outside the court room

Screens in the court room to prevent the witness from viewing the defendant

Video recorded evidence in chief

Evidence in private, in sex offence cases and those involving intimidation

Communication aids

Assistance with communication from an intermediary.

The 1999 Act also reformed the law on competency so that all witnesses, whatever their age or disability, are competent to give evidence unless they cannot understand the questions asked or cannot answer them in a way that can be understood.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many Government-funded apprenticeship places were available in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(d)* Twickenham constituency in each of the last five years; [294757]

(2) how many Government-funded apprenticeships have been undertaken in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(d)* Twickenham constituency in each of the last five years. [294758]

Kevin Brennan: Apprenticeship funding for further education (FE) colleges and providers is set out in a maximum contract value (MCV). This amount reflects the anticipated cost for an academic year of supporting learners continuing on programmes from earlier years as well as new starts. We do not fund on the basis of expected places rather the number of total learners that can be supported in a given year with the funds available.

Planning assumptions for funded apprenticeship places for the 2009/10 academic year were published in the Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council (November 2008). Further to this, we announced a £140 million package to deliver 35,000 extra apprenticeship places over 2009/10. Although information on apprenticeship places is not available, we do publish the number of apprenticeship starts in each academic year, at both a national and sub-national level.

Apprenticeship Starts for 2003/04 to 2007/08 were published in a statistical first release (SFR) on 25 June 2009:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrjun09

Supplementary table 5.1 shows apprenticeship starts by Constituency, Local Authority, Government Office Region and England for 2003/04 to 2007/08.

Provisional full-year figures for 2008/09 were published in a statistical first release on 22 October:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09

Supplementary geographic breakdowns will be available shortly after the main release.

Apprentices: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to extend the apprenticeship schemes in operation in Milton Keynes, with particular reference to the scheme operated by ABB Robotics; and if he will make a statement. [295756]

Kevin Brennan: The development of high level technician skills in industry is one of our key priorities in responding to the economic downturn. The engineering apprenticeship programme operated by ABB Robotics UK in conjunction with Milton Keynes college is the type of high quality investment in emerging technologies we wish to encourage and the reason why we are continuing to expand our investment in apprenticeships. We expect to invest over £1 billion this year, and last week we published provisional data for 2008-09 showing 234,000 people started an apprenticeship—a record number.

The National Apprenticeships Service is managing plans to promote and expand apprenticeships and will work with companies such as ABB to develop and support their skills investment.

Business Links

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made in evaluating the effectiveness of Business Link. [291954]

Ms Rosie Winterton: BIS works in partnership with regional development agencies (RDAs) to deliver Business Link services through a network of business advisers, and with HMRC to deliver a national helpline and an online portal at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

Customer satisfaction surveys and periodic evaluations are used routinely to assess the effectiveness of the service.

RDAs use monthly customer surveys and their own local evaluations to assess business benefits and monitor service provider contracts.

Serco, the businesslink.gov website service provider, carries out a biannual survey of website users on behalf of HMRC, to assess the benefits of the site as well as regular monitoring of website use statistics.

Additionally, BIS is carrying out its own assessment of the Business Link delivered Heath Checks that were set up as part of Real Help for Businesses support package.

A full economic impact evaluation of Business Link was published in 2007 which showed the service was cost-effective. This is available on the BIS website.

Business Links: Debts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of outstanding trading debts had been paid by Business Link within 10 days in each month since November 2008. [292926]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 October 2009]*: To gather this data to the level of detail and within the timeframe requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been drawn down from the Working Capital scheme by each eligible financial institution in each month since it became operational; and if he will make a statement. [264416]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following guarantees have been agreed on three bank loan portfolios under the Working Capital Scheme:

£0.5 billion to Royal Bank of Scotland in April 2009;

£0.6 billion to Lloyds Banking Group in April 2009; and

£1.1 billion to Lloyds Banking Group in July 2009.

Each bank has paid a premium to the Department for these guarantees; no money has been paid to any bank under these guarantees as there have been no defaults.

Business: Registration

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what obligations companies registered in the UK have to list with Companies House their subsidiary companies; what sanctions exist for non-compliance with such obligations; and on how many occasions enforcement action has been taken in the last five years. [296182]

Ian Lucas: The requirement for companies to notify Companies House of subsidiary undertakings is covered in sections 409 - 410 of the Companies Act 2006 (it was formerly section 231 of the Companies Act 1985). Sections 409 - 410 should be read in conjunction with SI 2008/409 and SI 2008/410.

Unless an exception applies all companies with subsidiary undertakings must disclose them in a note to their accounts at the end of each financial year.

Alternatively, if section 410(2) applies a company can opt to provide a full list of subsidiaries as an annex to the company's next annual return but this would also need to be explained in the notes to the accounts in question.

If a company fails to comply with this requirement the company and every officer commits an offence. The fine for this offence on conviction is one not exceeding level 3 of the standard scale which is £1000 and for continued contravention, a daily default fine not exceeding one-tenth of level 3 of the standard scale.

Enforcement wise Companies House only deal with this type of breach following a complaint. In the last five years we have had only two complaints where compliance was achieved without prosecutions taking place.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what grants his Department and its predecessors made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292653]

Mr. McFadden: The Department may have given grants to charitable bodies through a number of our programmes, but the status of the organisations are not recorded. The Department, however, does provide grant in aid for operating purposes to the following organisations that are registered as charities. The organisations and amounts (where they are over £100,000) are as follows:

Budget

					£000
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Citizen Advice	23,855	21,470	21,470	[1]21,470	28,970
Citizen Advice Scotland	3,240	2,916	3,016	3,389	3,362
Design Council	6,035	6,605	6,179	6,435	6,475
UK Skills	2,800	3,200	5,000	5,900	10,100
Ufi/learndirect	201,000	171,000	156,000	158,000	145,000
Learning and Skills Improvement Service—(est October 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	99,000	96,000

[1] HMT allocated an additional £2.5 million in PBR November 2008 to enable CABx to extend their opening hours for 2008-09—this money is ring-fenced.

Computer Viruses

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of computer viruses originating in the UK; and how many prosecutions there have been for offences related to writing viruses and malicious software in each of the last five years. [294927]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not made an assessment of the number of computer viruses originating in the UK.

The Government have made changes to the Computer Misuse Act 1990, through the Police and Justice Act 2006, to make it an offence to make, supply or obtain articles for use in computer misuse offences, such as malicious software and viruses. The changes were enacted on 1 October 2008. The figures for prosecutions under this offence are not yet available.

Departmental Mergers

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on external advice on the implementation of the merger of the former Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Innovation, Universities and Skills. [295907]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has not incurred any expense on external advice in implementing the merger of the two Departments. The cost of the merger to date are £160,000, primarily on changes to accommodation and building signage, offset by savings from removing duplication.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294684]

Mr. McFadden: Following a machinery of government change the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed in June. The following figures relate to the Departments before the merger.

The amount spent by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on overnight accommodation while overseas in each of the last three years was:

	£
2006-07	131,372
2007-08	318,655
2008-09	445,255

The amount spent by Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on overnight accommodation while overseas since it was formed in 2007 was:

	£
July 2007-08	3,387
2008-09	4,048

The Department does not separately record overnight accommodation undertaken by Ministers from that of officials—to provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

The Cabinet Office publish details of overseas visits costing in excess of £500 undertaken by Ministers, details are available by clicking on the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

Further Education: Construction

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the full evaluation made by the Learning and Skills Council on the readiness of all further education colleges to commence proposed capital building projects. [294339]

Kevin Brennan: The LSC has published on its website full details of the Lambert Smith Hampton readiness report and the results of the PricewaterhouseCoopers prioritisation exercise. It can be found at:

http://propertyservices.lsc.gov.uk/other/

Further Education: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the results were of the evaluation by the Learning and Skills Council of Stoke-on-Trent Further Education College's application for capital funding; and what the reasons were for refusal of the application. [294340]

Kevin Brennan: In line with the recommendations of Sir Andrew Foster's report a prioritisation exercise was undertaken to identify those projects which were the most urgent and the greatest need. Unfortunately Stoke-On-Trent college was not among the 13 projects which after receiving final approval are now under construction. Details of the Lambert Smith Hampton readiness report and the results of the PricewaterhouseCoopers prioritisation exercise can be found at:

http://propertyservices.lsc.gov.uk/other/

GCSE and GCE A-Level: Young Offenders

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* the secure estate and *(b)* Reading Young Offender Institution sat (i) GCSE and (ii) A Level examinations in each year since 2004. [295950]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not available in the format requested, as we do not record the number of people sitting exams.

Table 1 shows that there were 788 GCSE enrolments and 112 GCE, A/AS and A2 level enrolments by learners funded through the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service in the 2006/07 academic year and 1,194 GCSE enrolments and 264 GCE, A/AS and A2 level enrolments in the 2007/08 academic year—an increase of 406. There was no record of GCSE and GCE, A/AS/A2 level enrolments recorded in HMP and YOI Reading in either year.

Table 1: Increase in GCSE and GCE, A/AS/A2 level enrolments for offenders, 2006/07 and 2007/08 academic year, England

	Number of enrolments	
	2006/07 academic year	2007/08 academic year
GCSE	788	1,194
GCE A/AS/A2 level	112	264
Total	900	1,458

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Universities and Colleges Admissions Service applicants are given correct information regarding the status of their applications; [295878]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of applicants affected by errors in the online system employed by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service to allocate university places in 2009. [295880]

Mr. Lammy: The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is an autonomous organisation funded by its member institutions, and it is responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK. UCAS has provided us with following information. It receives results from the major awarding bodies and having added them to applicant details held at UCAS makes them available to institutions. It is then the institutions' responsibility to make decisions based on this information—updating the applicant's on-line record via UCAS systems accordingly. UCAS then processes these data and communicates the decision to the applicant both online and by letter. Through the online service, applicants were able to view the decisions received by UCAS at all times. UCAS informs us that on no occasion during this application cycle were any errors made by them in the processing of decisions.

Manufacturing Industries: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of firms in *(a)* Leeds, West constituency and *(b)* the City of Leeds are involved in manufacturing. [294024]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information from the interdepartmental business register on the number of manufacturing enterprises registered for VAT and/or PAYE in the Leeds city council area and the Leeds, West parliamentary constituency in 2009 is given in the following table.

	Manufacturing enterprises[1][2]		*All enterprises*	
Area	*Number*	*Percentage of total*	*Number*	*Percentage of total*
Leeds City Council	1,550	7.4	20,910	100
Leeds West Constituency	230	13.5	1,705	100

[1] UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activity (SIC) 2007

[2] Business numbers are rounded to the nearest five. These numbers comprise whole business enterprises registered in the appropriate locations, and not branches operating in the appropriate location but with their headquarters elsewhere.

Source:

Office for National Statistics Inter-Departmental Business Register 2009

Post Offices: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many sub-post offices have closed in each local authority area in the East of England in each year since 1999. [296038]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold the information requested. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices there were in Norwich, North constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* January 2009. [296106]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold the information requested. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Pay

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which staff in which regional development agencies (RDAs) received a salary greater than £50,000 in 2008-09; what expenses were reimbursed by each RDA to each such staff member in 2008-09; what pension entitlement each such staff member accumulated in 2008-09; what estimate has been made of the monetary value of hospitality received by each such staff member in 2008-09; whether such staff members received further benefits from their RDA in 2008-09; and what the equivalent figures were for each *(a)* chief executive and *(b)* chair of each RDA in 2008-09. [291476]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288953]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its First phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its Final Report, which can be found here:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A Steering Group has been established under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Caiman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Small Business Finance Forum

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Small Business Finance Forum in improving the access of small businesses to finance. [293773]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Small Business Finance Forum (SBFF) is an important means through which Ministers can engage with key representatives of the small business community and banks to facilitate better and more effective communication on finance issues. Business representatives have recognised the impact that the forum has had in improving relations.

Key achievements of the SBFF include the agreement of the Statement of Principles and the formation of the SME monitoring panel. The Statement of Principles defines how banks and their small business customers will work together, and aims to establish the right relationship from the start and outline how banks will help if companies get into difficulties. The SME monitoring panel was set up to monitor bank lending and initiate a constructive dialogue with individual lenders on the availability, risk and overall cost of lending. The panel reports monthly to Ministers.

Takeovers: Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Office of Fair Trading has taken to amend guidance on local and regional newspaper mergers and competition issues since publication of the Digital Britain Final Report. [294103]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* Since publication of the Digital Britain Report, the

OFT has published updated guidance on jurisdictional and procedural matters relating to merger control. The new 'Jurisdictional and Procedural Guidance' is available at:

http://www.oft.gov.uk/shared_oft/mergers_ea02/oft527.pdf

Paragraph 6.15 of the guidance sets out how the OFT will consult Ofcom on media mergers involving newspaper publishing and/or commercial radio or television broadcasting.

Urenco

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidelines will be applied by the Shareholder Executive to safeguard national security in the sale of the UK share in Urenco; and whether any prohibition will be put on bids from companies or organisations from particular countries. [293886]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

Careful consideration will be given to the policy issues that realising value from our interest in Urenco would give rise to before any decision to proceed is taken. Safeguarding national security will remain of paramount importance.

Vocational Training: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has made available to *(a)* all unemployed persons and *(b)* unemployed persons under the age of 21 in Leeds, West constituency to learn new skills to retrain in the latest period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [294021]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not available at constituency level. I have asked the acting chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council to write to my right hon. Friend with information about funding for training for unemployed people available in his region.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Young People: Employment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of young people under the age of 24 years who are in *(a)* training, *(b)* employment and *(c)* education in (i) Vale of York constituency, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) England. [294583]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number and percentage of 16-24-year-olds in employment, education and training for England and the local education authorities (LEAs) of North Yorkshire and the City of York in 2008. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey (2008).

Table 1: People aged[1] 16 to 24 in education, employment or training (2008)

	Number			Percentage (of total 16-24 population)		
	England	North Yorkshire	City of York	England	North Yorkshire	City of York
In employment	3,555,000	39,000	21,000	59	66	67
In education	2,452,000	27,000	14,000	41	45	45
In training (not education)	623,000	8,000	5,000	10	14	15
Not in employment or education or training	857,000	7,000	1,000	14	12	4

[1] Age used is the respondents' academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August

There are overlaps between these groups as some people will be both working and in education or training.

Due to small sample sizes, estimates cannot be provided for areas smaller than LEAs. Please note that these estimates are subject to sampling variability and should be viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-0.6pp means that the sampling variability ranges from 0.6pp above the estimate and 0.6pp below the estimate. Confidence Intervals for table 1 have been provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Confidence intervals for table 1 (people aged[1] 16 to 24 in education, employment or training)

	Confidence intervals (percentage points)		
	England	North Yorkshire	City of York
In employment	+/-0.6	+/-8.0	+/-6.5
In education	+/-0.6	+/-8.3	+/-6.8
In training (not education)	+/-0.4	+/-5.9	+/-4.9
Not in employment or education or training	+/-0.4	+/-5.5	+/-2.8

Young People: Unemployed

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of young people under the age of 24 years who are not in employment, education or training in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England. [294568]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number and percentage of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in England and the local education area (LEA) of North Yorkshire and City of York in 2008. These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey (2008).

Due to small sample sizes, estimates cannot be provided for areas smaller than LEAs. Please note that these estimates are subject to sampling variability and should be viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. Confidence intervals have been provided in table 1.

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 1: People aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training, 2008

	Number	*Percentage*	*Confidence intervals (percentage points)*
North Yorkshire	7,000	12	+/-5.5
City of York	1,000	4	+/-2.8
England	857,000	14	+/-0.4

[1] Age used is the respondents' academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 28 October 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 697-8W, on air pollution, if he will indicate the increased morbidity and mortality levels assumed behind each of the six monetised social health costs in 2020 listed in the table. [296192]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: The six scenarios discussed in the answer of 26 March 2009 were compared with a 'business as usual' scenario, during the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy to assess the additional air quality impacts of possible approaches to biomass heat uptake. It was found that the impact on concentrations of nitrogen dioxide was negligible on a national basis.

The impacts on morbidity resulting from the uptake of biomass as a renewable energy source were not assessed during the analyses.

The initial analysis of mortality for scenario 1 and 2 used an alternative approach to valuing the air quality impact which was not directly comparable in its intermediate assessment of mortality although the resulting monetise health costs are comparable.

An intermediate stage in the analysis of scenarios 3 to 6 was the calculation of the mortality resulting from the increment in particulate matter (PM_{10}) concentrations in ambient air. The results of this stage of the analysis are shown in the following table. The analysis is subject to considerable uncertainty in the underlying assumptions. Including the time delay between the exposure to the air pollution and the resulting health impact. The values presented for Scenarios 3 to 6 represent the central case within this uncertainty. Other uncertainties include the biomass emissions, the spatial distribution of biomass uptake and the valuation methodology. The results presented are for the whole of the UK and are given in their raw output form.

Scenario	*Life years lost over a 100 year period*	*Life years lost in 2020*	*Annualised health costs (£ million)*
1	728,086 to 1,389,377	—	731
2	2,766,736 to 5,280,418	—	2,803
3	—	452,554	189
4	—	1,748,651	732
5	—	339,861	142
6	—	1,331,083	557

Departmental Drinking Water

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each of the last five years. [292110]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 12 October 2009]*: The core-department and its catering services provider has not supplied bottled water for meetings since 19 February 2007. In the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 the core-Department purchased 9848, 12948, and 1969 litres respectively of bottled water at an average price of £1.72 per litre, a total cost of £42,595.80.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293332]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally, the core-department's expenditure on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years and the current financial year to date is:

	£
July 2006 - March 2007	817,167
April 2007 - March 2008	853,334
April 2008 - March 2009	668,733
April 2009 - August 2009	249,680

Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with Section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code and the principles set out in Managing Public Money. Staff are expected to use the most efficient and economic means of travel.

Food: Packaging

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the formulation of the Courtauld Commitment Mark II; and if he will make a statement. [295591]

Dan Norris: During the past year the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) has worked closely with Government and signatories on the development of a successor to the original Courtauld Commitment, which finishes in spring 2010. The 'next phase' of the Courtauld Commitment, or 'Courtauld 2' (it has yet to be officially named), which includes more sophisticated and ambitious targets on packaging and food waste, is due to be launched in the new year. WRAP is currently discussing the shape of the targets with the four UK Administrations and signatories and is not yet in a position to release further information.

Lorries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the environment of the operation of lorries weighing over 44 tonnes; and if he will make a statement. [292665]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

In order to be better informed about the likely consequences of allowing longer and/or heavier goods vehicles on the English road network, the Department for Transport commissioned a study which reported in 2008. The report of this study: "Longer and/or Longer and Heavier Goods Vehicles (LHVs) - A study of the likely effects if permitted in the UK" (reference: TRL Report PPR 285), concluded that allowing longer and/or heavier vehicles onto the network could lead to an increase in CO_2 emissions. The report also concluded that there would be a limited impact on the structural performance of pavements and bridges but did not cover the specific issue of the likely effect on the annual cost of maintaining the road network.

National Bee Unit: Qualifications

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff of the National Bee Unit have qualifications in bee biology at postgraduate level or above. [294990]

Dan Norris: The National Bee Unit (NBU) is part of the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) where approximately 150 staff comprising bee inspectors, scientists, policy specialists and other staff have an input into the bee health programme. Many of these staff have post graduate degrees in subjects related to, but not specifically in, bee biology. For bee inspectors, practical knowledge of beekeeping is an essential requirement of FERA's job specification and some Inspectors have over 30 years experience in this field.

Recycling: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an assessment of the environmental effects of the separated refuse recycling scheme in use in Leeds; and if he will make a statement. [295420]

Dan Norris: No such assessment has been made by DEFRA. The Government believes that local authorities are best placed to make decisions on the waste management strategy for their communities and therefore DEFRA does not interfere in these matters.

Rural Areas: Advertising

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the use of mobile advertising billboards in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [295312]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

Guidance on advertisements alongside motorways and trunk roads, including guidance on advertisements on vehicles parked in fields, verges or in lay-bys is provided in paragraphs 147-148 of CLG Circular 03/2007, "Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007".

Outdoor advertisements are controlled by these regulations. Generally, mobile advertising billboards will require the express consent of the local planning authority before they can be displayed. It will be for the relevant local planning authority to determine whether a particular advertisement should be permitted and the most appropriate course of action to take when an advertisement is displayed in contravention of the regulations.

Waste Management

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the national adoption of a zero waste standard. [295427]

Dan Norris: Building on the success of the original zero waste places initiative, which developed innovative best practice in sustainable waste management, the Government have developed a new Zero Waste Standard. This seeks to provide recognition of, and stimulation to, the work of local authorities in their efforts to minimise waste and maximise the use of resources in their communities.

We hope that local authorities across England will seek to meet the new standard and realise the benefits of adopting the zero waste concept

Wind Power: Floods

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent guidelines his Department has issued on the construction of wind turbines on flood plains. [295260]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's spatial planning policies relevant to new wind turbines are set out in Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22), 'Renewable Energy', while policies on development in flood risk areas are contained in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), 'Development and Flood Risk'.

On 11 August 2009, Communities and Local Government issued for consultation proposals to amend PPS25 to clarify certain aspects of the policy. This includes clarification of how the policy should be applied to proposals for new wind turbines in flood risk areas, including flood plains, taking account of the policy in PPS22. The proposed amendment would clarify that wind turbines can be constructed in flood risk areas, subject to demonstrating that the turbines would be safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, if proposed for a functional flood plain, would be designed to remain operational during a flood, result in no net loss of flood plain storage and not impede water flows.

The consultation period for the proposed amendments to PPS25 closes on 3 November.

Wind Power: Somerset

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the need for new pylons to service the wind turbines across the Somerset Levels proposed by EDF Energy. [295259]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

I understand that the hon. Member's question relates to the proposed wind farm at Withy Farm, Puriton near Bridgwater. I have been asked to respond as renewable energy falls within my Department's responsibilities.

As you may be aware, I am unable to comment on any aspect of a wind farm proposal that is currently in the planning system as that is a matter for the relevant local planning authority. This would include any assessment of the need for new pylons.

A report by the Electricity Networks Strategy Group[1] 'Our Electricity Transmission Network: A Vision for 2020' published in March 2009, set out the potential transmission investments needed to connect large volumes of onshore and offshore wind generation across the UK required to meet the 2020 renewables target, while, at the same time, facilitating the connection of other essential new low carbon generation.

A copy of the report is available at

http://www.ensg.gov.uk/index.php?article=126

[1] The Electricity Networks Strategy Group (ENSG) is a senior industry group chaired by DECC and Ofgem

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect the proposed construction of nine wind turbines on the Somerset Levels as proposed by EDF Energy would have on the environment; and if he will make a statement. [295261]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to his parliamentary question, number 295259, regarding wind farm proposals that are currently in the planning system.

The Government have made clear that wind farms should be located in appropriate places and that local concerns should be listened to. We recognise the need to ensure that all renewable energy developments take place within the formal planning procedure, which allows all relevant stakeholders, including members of the public, to put forward their views on the likely impact of any proposal on the environment and the local community.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22 on renewable energy highlights the need to take account of environmental impacts in terms of landscape and visual effects, which will vary on a case by case basis according to the type of development, its location and landscape setting.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Portcullis House: Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the smoking shelter constructed between Norman Shaw North and Portcullis House is expected to cost. [296230][1]

Nick Harvey: The smoking shelter is forecast to cost £49,000.

Recruitment: Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what process the House of Commons Service follows to establish salaries for new posts; and which new posts have been established at each pay band since 1997. [296177]

Nick Harvey: New posts are evaluated using the House of Commons pay band guidance which sets out the criteria for allocating posts in the pay band structure and gives examples of the typical tasks and demands of the work expected at each pay band level. New posts within the Senior Commons Structure are reviewed using the Job Evaluation for Senior Posts (JESP) methodology. Each pay band has a defined salary range.

The House of Commons Service manages its workforce numbers by budget and not by complement. Staffing levels are controlled through the annual business planning process and monitored on the basis of actual headcount and full-time equivalency, not in terms of a number of established posts. Records reflecting the number of new posts created over the period requested are therefore not maintained and cannot be produced retrospectively for the period requested. Staff figures are published each year in the Commission's annual report, which is available in the Library and at

www.parliament.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in attendance allowance to residents of Mid Bedfordshire constituency in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2008. [295407]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table:

Attendance allowance expenditure for mid Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency

Period	*Amount (£ million) (nominal terms)*
2001-02	3.20
2005-06	4.70
2008-09	5.80

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000.
2. Tables containing benefit expenditure by benefit, departmental strategic objective, local authority and parliamentary constituency can be found at the following URL:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp
and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Source:
DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

Carer's Allowance: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Mid Bedfordshire constituency *(a)* are entitled to and *(b)* receive carer's allowance. [295404]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Carer's allowance—mid Bedfordshire constituency: February 2009

	Number
Entitlement only	500
Receiving benefit	470

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[1] *[Official Report, 12 November 2009, Vol. 499, c. 9MC.]*

Notes:
1. Caseload totals show the number of people who are entitled to receive carer's allowance, including those who receive no actual payment.
2. Carers entitled to receive carer's allowance may not be paid it because they receive an overlapping benefit equal to or greater than their weekly rate of carer's allowance.
3. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Figures are published on the DWP website at:
www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Carers' Benefits

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Government plan to initiate the review of carers' benefits outlined in her Department's carers' strategy. [295233]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government acknowledged in the revised National Carer's Strategy, published in June 2008, that the current system of carers' benefits is not flexible enough to adapt to the wide variety of circumstances, responsibilities and needs that carers face.

This is a 10 year strategy with a long-term commitment to review the structure of benefits available to carers in the context of wider reform.

Reviewing carers' benefits is a complex subject that requires careful consideration which cannot be conducted in isolation if we are to ensure that any changes are properly thought through, sound and lasting. We are continuing to develop our thinking on longer term benefit reform within the context of our plans for simplifying the benefit system as a whole taking account of the review of the care and support system which is currently underway.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of benefits as a result of a diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis; and what information her Department holds on the medical conditions of such benefit claimants. [295588]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* Benefits are not paid to customers as a result of a diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalitis. Entitlement is based on the disablement that results from it and the effects of that disablement.

The Department holds case specific information on the medical conditions of people who have made claims on the basis of a disability or illness. The information can be gathered from a number of different sources including the claimant, health care professionals involved in their care and departmental medical advisers.

Decision makers consider all the available evidence before deciding on entitlement to benefit.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the main disabling conditions are of claimants of employment and support allowance who have been placed in *(a)* the support group and *(b)* the work-related activity group; and how many and what proportion of claimants fall into each group of the main disabling conditions. [294743]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 October 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Employment Services: Disabled

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what impact assessment she plans to carry out in respect of the effects on disabled people of the implementation of recent changes to arrangements for specialist disability employment services. [294765]

Jonathan Shaw: An Equality Impact Assessment was published online in December 2008 on initiatives covered in the White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future'. This included a focus on disability in the new specialist disability programme replacing WORKSTEP, Work Preparation and Job Introduction Scheme from October 2010—to be known as Work Choice.

We are currently undertaking the procurement process for the delivery of Work Choice and when contracts are awarded in April 2010, an updated Equality Impact Assessment will be produced.

Social Security Benefits

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what change there has been in the Government's latest published tax/benefit tables in the number of people with withdrawal rates of between 60 per cent. and 70 per cent.; and if she will make a statement. [295497]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

An update on the number of people facing withdrawal rates between 60 and 70 per cent. will be provided in the pre-Budget report.

Winter Fuel Payments: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Birmingham, Northfield constituency received a winter fuel payment in the latest year for which figures are available. [296269]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09, the number of people who received a winter fuel payment in the constituency of Birmingham, Northfield was 14,240.

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

Winter Fuel Payments: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people over the age of *(a)* 60 and *(b)* 80 years have claimed a winter fuel payment in North East Fife constituency in each year since 2001-02; and what estimate she has made of the number of people in North East Fife constituency who will receive winter fuel payments in 2009-10. [296126]

Angela Eagle: The number of winter fuel payments paid to individuals aged *(a)* 60 and over and *(b)* 80 and over in the North East Fife constituency in each year since 2001-02 are as follows:

	Number of individuals aged 60 and over	*Number of individuals aged 80 and over*
2001-02	16,310	n/a
2002-03	16,660	3,525
2003-04	16,875	3,565
2004-05	16,870	3,525
2005-06	18,280	3,850
2006-07	18,700	3,990
2007-08	19,390	4,070
2008-09	19,830	4,100

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five, for years 2001-02 to 2004-05 inclusive, and to the nearest 10 for years 2005-06 onwards.
2. Data are not available for the number of individuals aged 80 and over that received a winter fuel payment in 2001-02 for the North East Fife constituency.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

Forecast benefit caseloads are not produced at constituency level, however we expect similar numbers as in 2008-09 to receive the winter fuel payment in 2009-10 in the North East Fife constituency.

TREASURY

Child Trust Fund: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in Birmingham, Northfield constituency have received child trust fund payments since the scheme was introduced. [296270]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent published constituency level statistics on child trust fund accounts can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

and show that 4,527 children born before 5 April 2007 in the Birmingham, Northfield constituency have a child trust fund account.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296091]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Royal Mail provides external mail services to HM Treasury. This is not a tendered service and therefore there is no formal expiry date.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings following the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme. [296003]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury offers a range of internal training courses for officials to meet organisational priorities and which form part of the Professional Skills for Government (PSG) framework.

Any bespoke training that Ministers require is made available as necessary.

Due to delegated team budgets for training spend it is not possible to report on specific training relating to the Operational Efficiency Programme; this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Public Appointments

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the procedures used by Government departments to make appointments to their boards; and if he will make a statement. [295983]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The effectiveness of procedures used by Government Departments to make appointments to their boards is currently under review in the context of the Treasury's review of the code of good practice on corporate governance in central Government Departments, which is due to report in 2010.

Housing: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 194W, on housing: construction, which local authorities in London provide details of *(a)* building control commencement lists and *(b)* building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency; and which such authorities use the Valuebill/e-BAR interface to provide such information. [295844]

Ian Pearson: A table showing which local authorities within the London region of England have provided building control commencement lists and building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency is shown as follows.

The Valuebill/e-BAR interface is not used for the submission of building control commencement lists or building control completion notices.

Billing Authority	*Commencement Notices*	*Completion Notices*
Bexley	No	Yes
Bromley	Yes	Yes
Croydon	Yes	Yes
Greenwich	No	Yes
Lewisham	No	Yes
Sutton	No	Yes
Lambeth	No	Yes

Billing Authority	*Commencement Notices*	*Completion Notices*
Southwark	Yes	No
Kingston	Yes	Yes
Merton	Yes	No
Richmond	Yes	Yes
Wandsworth	Yes	Yes
Brent	Yes	Yes
Ealing	No	No
Hounslow	Yes	Yes
Havering	No	No
Barking and Dagenham	Yes	No
Redbridge	No	No
Newham	Yes	No
Waltham Forest	Yes	No
Haringey	No	No
Enfield	No	No
Barnet	No	No
Harrow	No	No
Hillingdon	No	No
City of London	No	No
City of Westminster	Yes	No
Kensington and Chelsea	Yes	No
Hammersmith and Fulham	No	No
Tower Hamlets	No	No
Hackney	No	No
Islington	No	No
Camden	Yes	Yes

Insurance: Travel

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the insurance industry on reducing the cost of travel insurance for *(a)* older people and *(b)* older people with health problems. [296280]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Local Government: Assets

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's proposed sale of assets on local government; and what assumptions about the sale of assets held by local authorities will be made to inform the next local government finance settlement. [294888]

Mr. Byrne: The £11 billion of UK local authority asset sales assumed over the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 are based on historic performance by the sector and forecast recovery in prices and transactions following the downturn local authorities remain free to determine which assets they sell and when local government revenue finance settlements beyond 2010-11 will be determined in the normal way at the next spending review.

Local Government: Bank Services

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been established for the repayment to local authorities of monies deposited with Icelandic banks. [296283]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Some local authorities are creditors of the failed Icelandic banks. Those creditors of UK subsidiaries of the failed Icelandic banks will be paid out in accordance with UK insolvency law. We understand that the administrations of Heritable Bank plc and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander are progressing. However, the timetable for the administration process is a matter for the administrators. Creditors of the banks in Iceland will make recoveries from the winding up of those banks in accordance with Icelandic law. The timetable for creditor payouts is governed by the process that has been adopted in Iceland for those institutions.

Met Office

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 482W, on the Operational Efficiency Programme: Meteorological Office, which further public bodies the Operational Efficiency Programme is consulting as part of the next phase of its review of the Meteorological Office; and if he will make a statement. [295287]

Mr. Byrne: The Operational Efficiency Programme continues to analyse opportunities to work more collaboratively across Government, in preparation for wider consultation. An update on the progress of the review will be provided around the pre-Budget report.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* representations and *(b)* evidence the Prime Minister's working group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society has received in its investigation. [295809]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ministerial Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society has received representations from a range of stakeholders. It is not the Government's practice to disclose details of all such representations.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors in each year since 1997. [295656]

Mr. Timms: The number of staff in HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor departments (HM Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue) for each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

Headcount

As at 1 April	*HMCE*	*Inland Revenue*	*Total*
1997	24,509	53,315	77,824
1998	25,115	53,163	78,278

			Headcount
As at 1 April	*HMCE*	*Inland Revenue*	*Total*
1999	24,019	61,339	85,358
2000	23,036	67,347	90,383
2001	23,387	68,292	91,679
2002	23,073	70,103	93,176
2003	23,364	78,456	101,820
2004	23,859	82,151	106,010
2005	—	—	104,674
2006	—	—	100,738
2007	—	—	96,511
2008	—	—	90,961
2009	—	—	88,875

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many attempts made by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors to collect tax payments outstanding under the self-assessment system resulted in complaints from members of the public in each year since 1997. [295660]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' central complaints database cannot provide the disaggregated data on complaints raised for this reason.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many attempts have been made by HM Revenue and Customs to collect tax payments outstanding under the self-assessment system in each year since 1997; how many such attempts resulted in the collection of *(a)* the full and *(b)* part of the payment outstanding; and how many such attempts did not recover any outstanding payment. [295661]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. HMRC uses a range of interventions to collect unpaid tax. Successful collectors of debt cannot normally be attributed to one specific action.

VAT

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average it took to complete a registration for value added tax in the latest period for which figures are available. [295860]

Mr. Timms: In 2008-09 the average time taken to complete a registration for VAT was 19.7 days. The figures for recent months are provided in the following table.

	Average number of days taken
April 2009	17.7
May 2009	29.0
June 2009	23.0
July 2009	27.7
August 2009	23.1
September 2009	27.1

The difference in average processing times is due to an increase in the number of potential suspect cases which required further risk checks Processing of these higher risk cases often takes longer as the necessary checks are made. HM Revenue and Customs remains committed to improving processing times, and is working with professional bodies, agents and other stakeholders to tackle the level of incomplete and/or inaccurate applications.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts related to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisations in Wales; and what the total value is of those contracts. [291214]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Welsh business is playing a vital role in helping to deliver the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) do not have a central record of supply chain contracts and their value, but they estimate the overall spend in Wales to be in the tens of millions of pounds. Examples include:

Euroclad, based in Cardiff, supplying the rainscreen cladding for the Olympic Stadium

Rowecord, from Newport, manufacturing the steel for the roof of the Aquatics Centre

Rhino Doors, from Port Talbot, providing security doors for the Olympic Park construction site

In addition the ODA has contracted directly with Welsh companies in a series of small corporate and administrative contracts worth £5,615.

TRANSPORT

A14: Road Traffic

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the most recent traffic flow data are for each section of the A14. [296039]

Chris Mole: A table providing the 2008 estimated annual average daily flows (AADFs) for each section of the A14, has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

These figures give estimates of the number of vehicles travelling along individual sections of road on an average day of the year.

AADF data for individual motorway and TV road links for 1999 to 2008 are available on the Department for Transport website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/matrix

A14: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there have been on the A14 in Suffolk in each year since 1999; and how many of those involved drivers under the age of 21 years in each case. [296040]

Paul Clark: The information requested is given in the following tables:

Number of reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk: 1999 to 2008

	(a) Accidents	*(b) Fatalities*
1999	122	8
2000	138	8
2001	138	10
2002	157	5
2003	128	3
2004	143	5
2005	150	4
2006	119	6
2007	126	6
2008	126	0

Number of reported personal injury road accidents involving drivers under the age of 21 and resulting fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk: 1999 to 2008

	(a) Accidents	*(b) Fatalities*
1999	21	1
2000	22	0
2001	26	1
2002	27	1
2003	29	0
2004	28	0
2005	28	0
2006	28	0
2007	19	3
2008	30	0

Biofuels

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to paragraph 4.150 of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy 2009, what assessment he has made of *(a)* increases in commodity prices and *(b)* effects on food security consequent upon using food crops for fuel. [295778]

Mr. Khan: The Government are assessing the combination of factors associated with the global food commodity price spike in 2008, and intends to publish the results early in 2010 as part of a food strategy package.

The relationship between biofuels and international food security is also being assessed through research focused on how to increase food production and access in an environmentally sustainable way, which will inform next year's food strategy package; and longer term through the Government's Foresight project on global food and farming futures, which is due to produce its final report in October 2010.

The EU Renewable Energy Directive requires the European Commission to monitor impacts of this policy on commodity prices and food security and the Commission shall, if appropriate, propose corrective action. The UK Government will continue to contribute to the EU policy debate. In addition, the UK is working in the Global Bioenergy Partnership to help develop voluntary sustainability criteria and indicators for bioenergy and biofuels, including for potential impacts on food security.

Bournemouth Airport: Roads

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Highways Agency has plans for the construction of a new road linking Bournemouth Airport and the A338. [295684]

Mr. Khan: The A338 is not a Highways Agency trunk road. The Highways Agency have no plans to construct a new road linking to it.

Furthermore, the South West region has not identified such a link as a regional priority within its regional funding allocation advice to Government.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291608]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its Executive Agencies spend on vehicle hire is set out in the following table:

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Department for Transport (Central)	188,144	208,126	353,758	220,352	219,380
Executive Agencies	2,002,484	1,966,637	2,385,202	2,467,707	2,756,202
Total	2,190,628	2,174,763	2,738,960	2,688,059	2,975,582

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles identified by *(a)* mobile and *(b)* static speed cameras as driving in excess of the speed limit were not pursued for prosecution purposes because the licence plates indicated that they were not UK-registered in the most recent year for which figures are available. [295577]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

Information available on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on offences involving vehicles does not identify those cases that are not pursued for prosecution.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his policy is in respect of the *(a)* identification by (i) mobile and (ii) static speed cameras and *(b)* prosecution of motorists driving vehicles in excess of the speed limit where the vehicles in question are non-UK registered. [295578]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

Foreign drivers are subject to the provisions of the Road Traffic Acts at all times when driving on British roads. They are therefore liable to prosecution for contravention of the legislation. It is for individual chief officers of police to decide what action should be taken against foreign drivers detected speeding by mobile or static speed cameras.

We have taken a number of measures to improve enforcement action against the drivers of non UK registered vehicles. These include a provision in the Road Safety Act 2006 which will allow the exchange of driver licensing and vehicle registration information with other countries.

Further help will be provided by the European Framework Decision on the Mutual Recognition of Financial Penalties, which will allow penalties imposed by courts in one member state to be enforced in another and by the International Convention on the mutual recognition of driving disqualifications. The growing use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, is also helping enforcement against foreign offenders detected speeding and jumping red lights, since a person who succeeds in leaving the country without being dealt with for such an offence can have their vehicle's number-plate recorded on a database and so be detected and dealt with on return here.

Driving Offences: Working Hours

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many drivers' hours offences were detected in respect of *(a)* UK-registered and *(b)* overseas registered drivers in each year since 1997. [295009]

Paul Clark: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) do not record the nationality of drivers, the following table sets out the number of drivers' hours offences from the drivers of foreign registered vehicles by type since 2003-04 when VOSA was formed.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
HGV UK						
Offence Prohibitions at Roadside	4,636	5,416	6,182	4,901	7,339	9,158
Offences (at Roadside)						
Drivers' Hours	381	518	586	618	1,040	1,267
Tacho and Records	5,073	5,772	6,726	5,274	7,644	9,794
Total	5,454	6,290	7,312	5,892	8,684	11,061
Prosecutions—presented						
Drivers' Hours	4,021	2,952	3,121	2,783	2,056	4,180
Tacho and Records	4,820	4,220	3,850	3,336	2,218	2,621
Total	8,841	7,172	6,971	6,119	4,274	6,801
Prosecutions—convicted						
Drivers' Hours	3,629	2,679	2,821	2,515	1,806	3,913
Tacho and Records	3,861	3,063	3,108	2,693	1,714	2,046
Total	7,490	5,742	5,929	5,208	3,520	5,959
HGV Non-UK						
Offence Prohibitions at Roadside	2,282	3,255	4,403	6,376	7,329	9,913
Offences (at Roadside)						
Drivers' Hours	1,430	2,342	3,095	4,801	4,915	5,937
Tacho and Records	1,037	1,335	1,800	2,253	2,894	4,719
Total	2,467	3,677	4,895	7,054	7,809	10,656
PSV UK						
Offence Prohibitions at Roadside	364	439	483	464	1,349	1,405
Offences (at Roadside)						
Drivers' Hours	18	27	23	24	125	133
Tacho and Records	340	470	541	525	1,419	1,532
Total	358	497	564	549	1,544	1,665
Prosecutions—presented						
Drivers' Hours	201	425	235	315	78	253
Tacho and Records	279	561	311	439	274	453
Total	480	986	546	754	352	706
Prosecutions—convicted						
Drivers' Hours	133	204	191	211	57	219
Tacho and Records	212	286	263	276	138	326
Total	345	490	454	487	195	545
PSV Non UK						
Offence Prohibitions at Roadside	22	39	30	67	113	91
Offences (at Roadside)						
Drivers' Hours	8	21	15	34	37	35
Tacho and Records	15	17	22	34	62	47
Total	23	38	37	68	99	82

Further information is available on VOSA's Effectiveness report which has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of Commission Directive 2009/113/EC on the eligibility criteria for a UK driving licence; and if he will make a statement. [296041]

Paul Clark: This Directive provides minimum standards of physical and mental fitness for driving. We are considering what differences there are between the Directive and the standards currently applied in the UK and what legislative changes will be required to accommodate at least the revised minimum standards. In conjunction with the medical experts on the Secretary of State for Transport's Honorary Advisory Panels, we are considering what to do in those cases where the revised standards are lower than those currently applied in the UK. In these cases we must determine whether the stricter standards should remain in force, in the interests of road safety. Once the experts provide their advice we intend to issue a public consultation.

Lorries: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many personal injury collisions involved *(a)* left and *(b)* right hand drive heavy goods vehicles in each year since 1997; and in how many in each category vehicle blind spot was found to be a contributory factor. [295008]

Paul Clark: Information concerning the steering position of vehicles in reported personal injury road accidents is only available for foreign registered vehicles. Data in reported road accidents are only available since 2005. The available information requested is given in the table:

Reported personal injury road accidents involving HGVs; by steering position, and whether vehicle blind spot was attributed as a contributory factor[1], Great Britain, 2005-08

	Foreign registered HGVs				*UK[2] registered HGVs*		*Total HGVs*	
	Left hand drive		*Right hand drive*					
	Total accidents	*Vehicle blind spot*	*Total accidents*	*Vehicle blind spot*	*Total accidents*	*Vehicle blind spot*	*Total accidents*	*Vehicle blind spot*
2005	1,014	291	85	6	10,063	341	11,162	638
2006	952	259	91	5	9,423	360	10,466	624
2007	858	193	63	3	8,908	359	9,829	555
2008	760	182	78	10	7,577	331	8,415	523

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

[2] Left or right hand side drive is not recorded for UK registered vehicles.

Lorries: Agriculture

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his policy is on the requirement of registration as heavy goods vehicles of agricultural motor vehicles other than agricultural and forestry tractors regardless of weight for use on public roads. [295063]

Paul Clark: Vehicle registration and licensing is determined by a vehicle's construction and how it is used on the public road. In addition to agricultural and forestry tractors, light agricultural vehicles and agricultural engines also fall outside the heavy goods vehicle class.

Lorries: Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the annual cost of maintaining the road network arising from its use by lorries weighing more than 44 tonnes; and if he will make a statement. [292963]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 14 October 2009]*: In order to be better informed about the likely consequences of allowing longer and/or heavier goods vehicles on the English road network, the Department for Transport commissioned a study which reported in 2008. The report of this study: "Longer and/or Longer and Heavier Goods Vehicles (LHVs) - A study of the likely effects if permitted in the UK" (reference: TRL Report PPR 285), concluded that allowing longer and/or heavier vehicles onto the network could lead to an increase in CO_2 emissions. The report also concluded that there would be a limited impact on the structural performance of pavements and bridges but did not cover the specific issue of the likely effect on the annual cost of maintaining the road network.

Lorries: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's trial of Fresnel window lenses for improving heavy goods vehicles sightlines. [295011]

Paul Clark: A copy of the report on Fresnel window lenses for improving heavy goods vehicles sightlines has been placed in the Libraries of the House. A copy is also available on the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/publications/consultationsandresearch/researchanddevelopment/researchanddevelopment.htm

Railways: East Midlands

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to improve the East Midlands peak time train service between Manchester and *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* South Yorkshire. [295582]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* On 23 July the Government announced a major £1.1 billion programme of rail electrification, including the electrification by 2013 of the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willows.

Electrification of the Liverpool-Manchester route via Newton-le-Willows will enable the operation of high-capacity four-carriage electric trains transferred from the cross-London Thameslink route. These trains will be completely modernised before they are transferred, including the installation of air-conditioning.

This additional capacity on the Liverpool-Manchester line running via Newton-le-Willows will relieve pressure on the other Liverpool-Manchester line running via Warrington.

The diesel trains currently operating on the Liverpool-Manchester line via Newton-le-Willows will be transferred onto other routes, delivering much needed additional capacity.

In the meantime, the Department for Transport is in discussion with train operating companies about delivering additional capacity. This includes discussions with Northern Rail about a first phase of additional rolling stock. The Government will publish an updated rolling stock plan taking account of electrification and setting out a revised strategy this autumn.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghan Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to the organisation Afghan Aid in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [295350]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not allocated any funds directly to Afghan Aid in the last five years.

Between 2003 and 2009, DFID provided £430,000 to the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG), of which Afghan Aid is a member.

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of his Department are based at Kandahar air base; and what their function is. [295176]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) no longer publicises staff numbers for country offices, following an assessment of DFID's work in insecure environments by the National Audit Office in October 2008, and a range of improvements to our security policies and procedures.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials of his Department are based in each district of Helmand province. [295179]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) no longer publicises staff numbers for country offices, following an assessment of DFID's work in insecure environments by the National Audit Office in October 2008, and a range of improvements to our security policies and procedures.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has budgeted for aid to Afghanistan in 2009-10; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's provision of aid to Afghanistan in the last 12 months against its objectives. [294773]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has budgeted £127.5 million for Afghanistan in 2009-10. This forms part of a £510 million commitment for 2009-13.

DFID's latest Afghanistan Country Programme Evaluation was published in May 2009 and is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Asia-South/Afghanistan/

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the delivery of the Government's humanitarian aid to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [295426]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is in regular consultation with development agencies, donors and others on the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. These include the Government of Afghanistan, the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN World Food Programme (UN-WFP) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA).

DFID monitors closely the effectiveness of the delivery of humanitarian aid through assessments made by agencies who deliver aid on the ground such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UN-WFP.

Afghanistan: Schools

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many schools in Helmand province are *(a)* open and *(b)* in operation. [295178]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: 93 Government-funded schools are both open and operational in Helmand province, compared to 34 in 2006. School enrolment in Helmand has risen from 50,000 in 2006 to 64,500 today.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296057]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP). DFID is currently exploring savings across the full range of back office functions identified in OEP. We are engaging actively in the OEP benchmarking exercise and I have been appointed Value for Money Minister.

There are a wide range of learning and development opportunities available in DFID, many of which are focused on driving VFM.

Ethiopia: Human Rights

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia. [296279]

Mr. Thomas: A humanitarian assessment carried out by the Government of Ethiopia and international partners released last week indicated that 6.2 million people in Ethiopia will need emergency assistance until the end of the year.

The prospects for 2010 are also a cause for serious concern. An assessment of the November harvest will provide a clearer picture of likely future humanitarian needs. If this harvest does fail, a significant scaling-up of efforts by the Government of Ethiopia and the international community will be needed to prevent the current crisis becoming a catastrophe in 2010. DFID has contributed £54 million to the humanitarian response in Ethiopia in 2009 and will continue to closely monitor the situation with regard to future support.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement on Ethiopia made on 19 October 2009, *Official Report;* column 47WS.

India: Tuberculosis

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of his Department's support for the national tuberculosis programme in India. [295000]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) support to India's National Tuberculosis Control Programme has been highly effective. The programme has averted an estimated 180,000 deaths a year since 2005. That is around 500 lives saved in India every day. DFID's support has helped put 1.5 million TB patients on treatment every year in India.

Our support has ensured that India has faced no drug shortage, despite having the most rapidly expanding TB programme in the world. By March 2006 the programme had been scaled up to cover the entire country. Since 1997 the success rate for TB treatment has tripled from 25 per cent. to 86 per cent. and TB deaths rates have been cut seven-fold from 29 per cent. to 4 per cent.

International Assistance: Tuberculosis

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of his Department's contribution towards global and regional progress on Millennium Development Goal 6 in relation to tuberculosis. [294999]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) contributes to the Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis (TB) 2006-15, which aims to save 14 million lives, with substantial support through country programmes, multilateral organisations, global partnerships and research. Examples include the following:

Commitment of £1 billion to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) for 2008-15. The GFATM estimates that it has supported the additional detection in and treatment of 5.4 million people with TB.

A 20-year commitment of up to €60 million per year by 2010 to UNITAID, which by 2011 is aiming to triple access to rapid tests for multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB and reduce the price MDR-TB medicines-by 25 per cent.

DFID support to focus states in India on TB funds the purchase and reliable supply of high quality anti-TB drugs. This has contributed to a reduction in TB mortality from 0.35 million to 0.28 million—a saving of 36,000 lives each year during 2005-07.

This year DFID has undertaken an extensive review of its health portfolio, including our work on TB, publication of which is forthcoming.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian aid the UK has provided to Pakistan in each year since 1998. [294841]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of UK aid expenditure is published in 'Statistics on International Development' which is available online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

and in the Library of House. The relevant figures for Pakistan are reproduced in the following table.

UK gross public expenditure on development to Pakistan

£000

	Bilateral	*Imputed multilateral share*
1998-99	26,937	21,175
1999-2000	23,472	2,105
2000-01	15,890	3,072
2001-02	44,838	25,623
2002-03	46,852	39,756
2003-04	66,299	14,787
2004-05	55,278	15,091
2005-06	97,688	58,671
2006-07	118,150	22,675
2007-08	88,145	58,547
2008-09	129,713	n/a

CABINET OFFICE

Social Enterprise

10. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment she has made of the contribution of social enterprise to the economy. [295967]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, North and Leith (Mark Lazarowicz).

Population

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the population of the UK is; how many UK citizens there were in *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1997, *(c)* 2002 and *(d)* 2007; and how many citizens there were of (i) another EU member state, (ii) Australia, Canada or New Zealand, (iii) the USA and (iv) other countries who did not also hold UK citizenship were resident in the UK in each such year. [295951]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question concerning what the population of the UK is; how many UK citizens there were in (a) 1992, (b) 1997, (c) 2002 and (d) 2007; and how many citizens of (i) another EU member state, (ii) Australia, Canada or New Zealand, (iii) the USA and (iv) other countries, who did not also hold UK citizenship, were resident in the UK in each such year. (295951)

Table 1, attached, gives mid-year population estimates in 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007. Tables 2, 3 and 4, attached, give the UK population broken down by nationality groupings in 1997, 2002 and 2007 respectively. No data are available for 1992.

These figures are based on survey data and as with any sample survey are subject to margins of error which are shown on the tables. A person's nationality is self-defined and may not coincide with administrative definitions of citizenship. It is not possible to identify which residents hold dual nationality, as the Labour Force Survey on which the figures are based records only the first nationality given by the respondent.

Please note that the number of people of all nationalities in these tables will not sum to the mid-year population estimates in Table 1, as the survey excludes people in most types of communal establishment.

Table 1: Mid-year population estimates: United Kingdom; estimated resident population

	Thousand
Mid-1992	57,584.5
Mid-1997	58,314.2
Mid-2002	59,323.5
Mid-2007	60,975.4

Note:
Figures for the United Kingdom do not include the population of the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
Sources:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Table 2: Estimated population resident in the United Kingdom, by foreign nationality—1997

Nationality	*Estimate*	*Thousand* *CI +/-*
All nationalities	57,537	471
British	55,420	462
European Union (EU15)[1]	834	57
Australia, Canada or New Zealand[2]	127	22
United States of America[2]	102	20
Rest of the world	1,054	64

[1] Estimates are shown for the European Union 15, that is: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Those with British nationality are not included in this grouping, but are shown separately in this table.
[2] Statistical Robustness—Estimates are reasonably precise
Note on Statistical Robustness:
Sample surveys have a necessary margin of error. CI +/- gives the range in which it is possible to be 95 per cent. confident the true value lies.
Notes:
1. It should be noted that the LFS:
excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)
is grossed to population estimates of those living in private households that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.
2. The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the nationality variable.
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS), ONS

Table 3: Estimated population resident in the United Kingdom, by foreign nationality—2002

Nationality	*Estimate*	*Thousand* *CI +/-*
All nationalities	58,261	303
British	55,505	296
European Union (EU15)[1]	890	37
Australia, Canada or New Zealand[2]	147	15
United States of America[2]	104	13
Rest of the world	1,535	49

[1] Estimates are shown for the European Union 15, that is: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Those with British nationality are not included in this grouping, but are shown separately in this table.
[2] Statistical Robustness—Estimates are reasonably precise
Note on Statistical Robustness:
Sample surveys have a necessary margin of error. CI +/- gives the range in which it is possible to be 95 per cent. confident the true value lies.
Notes:
1. Estimates are based on the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS) which is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts.
2. It should be noted that the LFS:
excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)
is grossed to population estimates of those living in private households that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.
3. The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the nationality variable.
Source:
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS), ONS

Table 4: Estimated population resident in the United Kingdom, by foreign nationality—2007

Nationality	*Estimate*	*Thousand* *CI +/-*
All nationalities	60,145	318
British	56,192	307
European Union (EU15)[1]	1,588	52
Australia, Canada or New Zealand	193	18
United States of America[2]	137	15
Rest of the world	2,036	58

[1] Estimates are shown for the European Union 27, that is: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania. Those with British nationality are not included in this grouping, but are shown separately in this table.
[2] Statistical Robustness—Estimates are reasonably precise
Note on Statistical Robustness:
Sample surveys have a necessary margin of error. CI +/- gives the range in which it is possible to be 95 per cent. confident the true value lies.
Notes:
1. Estimates are based on the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS) which is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts.
2. It should be noted that the LFS:
excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)
is grossed to population estimates of those living in private households that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.
3. The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the nationality variable.
Source:
Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS), ONS

SCOTLAND

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [295448]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office hosted one Christmas function in 2008.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296082]

Ann McKechin: The Royal Mail provides a range of mail services under contract to the Scotland Office. The services are subject to annual renewal.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to the procurement of tank chassis based on those used for heavy armoured personnel carriers. [295209]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We are not currently procuring any new battle tanks. However we are engaged in competitions for the upgrade of the Warrior fighting vehicle and for the procurement of a new Reconnaissance vehicle which will replace CVRT. We hope to have announcements on these two programmes before too long.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications for UK security policy in Afghanistan of the report on NATO operations in that country by ISAF Commander General Stanley McChrystal. [295388]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I told the House on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 463, we share much of General McChrystal's thinking. Together with NATO allies and ISAF partners, we are now in the process of assessing the implications of the general's report.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what leaflet drops UK forces have undertaken in Afghanistan in the last three years; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such leaflet. [295415]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of 21 October 2009, UK forces have undertaken 18 Airborne Delivery leaflet drops in Afghanistan over the last three years. Leaflets are distributed in a variety of ways, both by the UK and other coalition nations. I will place examples of leaflets designed by the UK in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements he has made for civilian inspectorates to scrutinise elements of the Service Justice System in order to meet his commitment to implement recommendation 26 of the Blake Review; what the timetable for such inspections is; what recommendations have been made arising from those inspections that have been completed; and if he will place a copy of the summary of findings and recommendations of inspections in the Library. [295196]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In line with the Government's response to the Blake Review recommendations 24 and 26, arrangements have been made with each of the relevant inspectorates to ensure that all elements of the Service Justice System are inspected regularly. Information about completed and scheduled inspections are provided below:

Service Police—Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary conducted its first full inspection of Royal Military Police Special Investigations Branch in June 2006; a second inspection is planned for 2011. It inspected the RAF Special Investigations Branch this year for the first time, and the first inspection of the RN Special Investigations Branch is scheduled for 2010. Inspections of the wider single service police forces are currently being considered;

Military Court Service—Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration is currently conducting its first inspection, and is scheduled to report in April 2010. The inspection will also include legal aid and probation services;

Service Prosecuting Authority—Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate published its report of its inspection of the Army Prosecuting Authority in June 2007. The new tri-Service Service Prosecuting Authority having only been created in 2009, its first inspection is not expected before late 2010 at the earliest;

Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester—Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons first conducted a full inspection in 2004. It reported on its latest inspection in January 2009, and is scheduled to carry out its next inspection in 2012.

The precise dates of inspections are dependent on inspectorates' programmes and priorities. Full inspections are scheduled to take place approximately every two years, approximately every three years for Military Corrective Training Centre, with unannounced or follow up inspections taking place in between if considered necessary.

Each inspectorate publishes its findings on its website found at the following links:

HMIC: http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/

HMICA: http://www.hmica.gov.uk/

HMCPSI: http://www.hmcpsi.gov.uk/

HMIP: http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectorates/hmi-prisons/

Chinook helicopters

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the HC3 Chinook helicopters to enter operational service with the Royal Air Force; and how many such aircraft are involved. [295211]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The first of eight reverted Mk3 Chinooks will be made available to the Joint Helicopter Command before the end of this year, with the remaining seven being delivered by the end of 2010.

Czech Republic: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many vehicles his Department has purchased from Tatra Trucks in the Czech Republic in the last five years. [295882]

Mr. Quentin Davies: MOD has not purchased any vehicles from Tatra Trucks in Czech Republic in the last five years.

Members: Correspondence

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the letters of 27 July 2009 and 31 August 2009 from the hon. Member for Moray on Court of Appeal costs incurred by his Department. [295399]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will be writing shortly in response to the hon. Member's letters.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the initial gate decision on Trident replacement has been delayed until after the forthcoming Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference; and if he will make a statement. [295405]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Board will consider the work required during the Concept Phase work later this year. There has been no decision to delay Initial Gate because of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

African Union

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Uganda on its invitation to Omar Bashir of Sudan to attend the African Union meeting in Kampala; and if he will make a statement. [295479]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our high commissioner discussed the issue with senior officials at the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who indicated that President Bashir would not be attending the AU summit on refugees in Kampala. He has not done so.

We have made clear our expectation that all countries cooperate with International Criminal Court (ICC) investigations on events in Darfur, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1593 of 2005. States party to the ICC, such as Uganda, have particular legal obligations.

Colombia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 625W, on Colombia: foreign relations, on how many occasions the British Ambassador in Bogota has met the Colombian Foreign Minister to discuss *(a)* bilateral relations and *(b)* broader global issues in the last 12 months. [296010]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: Our ambassador in Bogota meets the Colombian Foreign Minister on a regular basis in the course of his duties.

Conflict Prevention

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) which countries the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has visited in an official capacity since February 2009; and what the costs of such visits were; [295391]

(2) which non-governmental organisations the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has met since February 2009; and what issues were raised in each meeting; [295392]

(3) on which dates since February 2009 the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has visited *(a)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* 10 Downing Street; and what the purpose of each visit was; [295393]

(4) what representations of each type the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has received as part of his dialogue with *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* the EU, *(c)* the African Union and *(d)* others; and on which dates each such representation was received; [295394]

(5) when the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms last reported to the Prime Minister; and what issues were discussed. [295395]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, was appointed in October 2008 and reports to my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs, Defence and International Development. He has made a valuable contribution to advancing the UK's peacebuilding objectives. He has in particular engaged with the UN Secretariat and key stakeholders around the world to press for an ambitious UN Secretary-General report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict.

Mr. McConnell's expenses are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Travel and approximate costs of visits since February 2009 are as follows:

In Bosnia (February 2009) he met representatives of the EC Delegation and the International Commission for Missing Persons—£1,500.

In Ethiopia (February 2009) Mr. McConnell met with representatives of the African Union; Africa Commission; UN Economic Commission for Africa, Institute for Security Studies; Centre for Policy Research and Dialogue; Ethiopian Institute for Peace and Development—£3,000.

In Uganda (March 2009) he met representatives of various UN agencies—£2,100.

In the USA (April 2009) he met representatives of the International Monetary Fund; World Bank and the UN—£5,900.

In Egypt (May 2009) he met representatives of the UN; Africa Society and International Crisis Group—£4,000.

In Japan (May 2009) he met representatives of the Japan International Co-operation Agency; Peace Winds; Nature Japan; The Japan Foundation; the Association for Aid and Relief; the Japan Centre for Conflict Prevention; the Graduate Institute for Policy Studies—£4,600.

In the USA (June 2009) he visited the Stanley Foundation Retreat—£1,700.

In Brazil (July 2009) he met representatives of Mendes University; Viva Rio; GAPCon; Brazilian Youth Council; University of Brasilia—£8,650.

Mr. McConnell travelled to West Africa in August 2009. In Liberia he met representatives of the UN Development Programme; Committee on Peace and Reconciliation. In Sierra Leone he met representatives of the Gola Forest Programme and G&G Manager Exploration. In Ghana he visited the Kofi Annan Centre for Peacekeeping and met representatives of the Legon Centre for International Affairs—whole visit £5,000.

In Chile (September 2009) he attended a meeting of the UN Peacebuilding Commission—£3,540.

Mr. McConnell travelled to Belgium (October 2009) and met with a range of EU interlocutors from the Presidency, Commission and Council Secretariat on EU/UN relations, civilian capability development, and EU civilian/military cooperation—£1,130.

Mr. McConnell visited East Africa (Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo) (October 2009). In Burundi he met representatives of International Alert, Kamenge Youth Project, EU members and the UN Integrated Office (BINUB). In Rwanda he visited the Motobo Camp, met with members of the UN and representatives of the Clinton Hunter Development Initiative, Search for Common Ground and the Mines Advisory Group. In the DRC he met representatives of the UN, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, International Committee of the Red Cross and Oxfam. This visit has only just been completed and the final cost is not yet available.

Whilst in London Mr. McConnell has met with representatives from the World Child Cancer Foundation and Pumpaid.

Some of Mr. McConnell's time is spent in London to meet or receive briefings from senior FCO, DfID and MOD officials and to see London-based experts on conflict.

Mr. McConnell has recently met the Prime Minister, and visited the Foreign and Commonwealth office on 1 February 2009, 15 February 2009, 3 March 2009, 5 March 2009, 9 March 2009, 23 March 2009, 9 April 2009, 19 April 2009, 11 May 2009, 9 June 2009, 28 June 2009, 7 July 2009, 18 August 2009, 10 September 2009, 12 October 2009, and 26 October 2009.

Counter-Terrorism: International Cooperation

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of the $750 million pledged by the UK to the Global Threat Reduction Strategy under the Global Partnership has been spent; and what the budget allocation is for each year up to 2012, broken down by project. [295334]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* As detailed in the published Sixth Annual Report of the Global Threat Reduction Programme (GTRP) (2008), of the $750 million pledged by the UK in 2002 to the Global Partnership fund, £270 million had been spent by the end of 2008. Figures for 2009 will be published in the 2009 annual report. At the last comprehensive spending review, the GTRP budget was set at £36.5 million per annum for the three years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

In a speech earlier this year, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stated that funding would remain at this level for 'the foreseeable future'. A breakdown of expenditure to the end of 2008 in the key project areas, also detailed in the Sixth Annual Report, is set out in the following table. An update of spending by project will be provided in the 2009 annual report. The GTRP Ministerial Oversight Board meeting in November is scheduled to approve budget allocations for future years.

Project	*£ million*
Chernobyl Shelter Project	36.668
Nuclear Safety Programme	23.256
Physical Protection of Proliferation of Sensitive Nuclear Materials	25.161
Decommissioning in CEE/FSU	7.86
Closed Nuclear Cities Partnership	28.28
North West Russia	97.088
KEDO	4.44
UK Support for Decommissioning BN350 Reactor, Aktau, Kazakhstan	5.736
Social and Economic Consequences of Nuclear Power Plant Closure	4.234
Information Dissemination and Programme Publicity	0.295
Plutonium Reactor Closure Project	10.93
Chemical Weapon Projects at Shchuch'ye	16.20
Contractor Project Management and Set-up Cost	2.62
Support to Green Cross Office, and Other Projects	0.64
Biological Projects	2.04
C WD Project Management and Support	3.38
Biological Project Management and Support	1.41
Global Threat Reduction Programme Expenditure total	270.238

The full report is available to download at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/nuclear/nonprolif/global_threat/annual_report/annual_report.aspx

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291610]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, spend on hire vehicles in each of the last three financial years is as detailed in the table. We do not have figures for earlier years.

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
Coaches:	
2008-09	60,026.41
2007-08	95,274.76
2006-07	18,794.17
Hired Cars:	
2008-09	160,316.00
2007-08	121,011.77
2006-07	130,770.60

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296088]

Chris Bryant: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services has a logistics contract that covers diplomatic mail services with DHL Global Forwarding (UK) Ltd. Their current contract expires on 1 October 2010.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294980]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) operates a travel advice telephone information line and does not receive any financial gain from this service.

In addition, in a consular crisis overseas the FCO can release an emergency telephone number for members of the public to use to report the possible involvement of friends or relatives. The FCO does not charge for this service.

Embassies

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which consulates he has visited in the last six months. [296229]

Chris Bryant: The Cabinet Office produces an annual list of overseas travel by Ministers. A list of all overseas visits undertaken by Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 was published in July and copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Travel undertaken by Ministers in the last six months will be included in next year's list.

Horn of Africa: EU

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2172, on the Horn of Africa: United Nations, what the outcome was of the European Union discussions in September on the appointment of a Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa. [293765]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A final decision has not been made on the appointment of an EU special representative to the Horn of Africa, but the issue was discussed briefly within the wider Somalia context at EU working group level on several occasions in September 2009. EU member states continue to endorse the conclusions from the General Affairs and External Relations Council of July 2009 and the possible appointment of a special representative continues to be viewed positively.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how soon he expects good governance to be achieved in the Turks and Caicos Islands; and what steps he is taking to support this. [294941]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* A UK-funded governance adviser has been involved in a major review and restructuring of the Turks and Caicos Islands' public service. Work is underway to strengthen a number of areas of public sector delivery including establishing the right balance between ministries and independent public boards to conduct the Government's business, and identifying technical expertise necessary to make the administration fit for purpose. The Government have also funded the National School of Government to provide Senior Leader Development training.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures his Department has put in place to ensure sound financial management in the Turks and Caicos Islands following the publication of Sir Robin Auld's final report on alleged corruption in that country. [294942]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* A range of UK-funded advisers have been appointed, including an economist, an auditor and two public financial management experts. They have worked with Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) public servants to carry out a full review of the TCI Government's finances. Measures have been put in place to limit public expenditure, increase revenue and bring the Islands' debt under control. These have been included in a new budget which also reflects the restructuring of the public service. The rationale behind the new budget is to provide breathing space for the introduction of the more fundamental reforms needed to ensure transparency, accountability and sustainability in the management of public finances.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the districts where troops of the Lords Resistance Army are operating. [292519]

Chris Bryant: According to reports that we have recently received, the Lords Resistance Army's main areas of activity are in Southern Sudan (mostly in Western Equatoria State), the Democratic Republic of Congo (the Haut-Uele in the Orientale province) and the Central African Republic (Haut-Mbomou prefecture).

United Nations: Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what events in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* overseas territories took place on 24 October 2009 to celebrate United Nations Day. [295663]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is not informed of all events commemorating UN day across the UK or in the Overseas Territories. However, to mark UN Day 2009, my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock, FCO Minister for the UN, will host a reception for members of the UN Association-UK's young professionals network at the FCO on 28 October 2009. The reception will give young professionals from across the vocational spectrum the opportunity to hear about the ways in which the UK supports the work of the UN. Baroness Kinnock has also paid tribute to the UN and its staff by posting a message on the FCO website.

UN Association-UK have marked UN Day through a range of activities. These included fundraising events to support the UN's humanitarian work, UN flag-raising ceremonies, conferences and speaker events, as well as the launch of its annual lobby of Parliament which aims to promote dialogue between voters and MPs on UN issues. Other events across the country include, UN 'flag day' collections (London and the South East of England), Celebration of UN Day and the International Year of Astronomy (Northern Ireland), UN Day talk on Israel and Palestine (Warwick), UN Day service (Shropshire) and UN Day ceremony (Harpenden).

HOME DEPARTMENT

62 South Eaton Place

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 310W, on 62 South Eaton Place, how many viewings of 62 South Eaton Place there have been since the property was placed on the market. [294362]

Mr. Woolas: There have been 78 viewings since 62 South Eaton Place was placed on the market.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink banning orders had been made on the latest date for which figures are available. [294425]

Alan Johnson: Drinking banning orders (DBOs) on application were commenced on 31 August 2009. Official statistics for 2009 are planned for publication in autumn 2010.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many procedures carried out on animals in Scotland in 2008 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involved *(a)* New World primates and *(b)* Old World primates; and what the primary purposes of those procedures were. [295693]

Meg Hillier: The total number of scientific procedures started using New World Primates in Scotland in 2008 was 37, of which the primary purpose was fundamental biological research for 29 procedures and applied studies—human medicine or dentistry for eight procedures. The number of scientific procedures started using Old World Primates was 1,277, for all of which the primary purpose was applied studies—human medicine or dentistry.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued on application from *(a)* the police force and *(b)* registered social landlords in Bassetlaw constituency. [296285]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally.

Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued is not broken down by individual applicant and not available below criminal justice system (CJS) area level.

The total number of ASBO issued on application in the Nottinghamshire CJS area from 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007 (latest available) is 158.

Crime: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* alcohol- and *(b)* drug-related crime were recorded in (i) Leeds West constituency, (ii) Leeds City and (iii) West Yorkshire in each year since 2005. [295361]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data requested on incidents are not collected centrally. However, the British Crime Survey provides figures for violent incidents where the victim believes the offender was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This information is provided in the following table.

Violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 1995 to 2008-09

Percentages and numbers (thousand)—BCS

											Statistically significant change	
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of[1]	*1995*	*1997*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*1995 to 2008-09*	*2007-08 to 2008-09*
Proportion of all violent incidents[2]												
Alcohol	41	43	48	45	51	49	45	46	46	47	**	—
Drugs	16	18	21	20	20	18	23	17	19	17	—	—
Unweighted	1,078	915	1,285	1,397	1,398	1,459	1,512	1,658	1,477	1,440	—	—
Number of violent incidents (thousand)												
Alcohol	1,656	1,457	1,244	1,177	1,299	1,105	1,023	1,087	971	973	**	—

Violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 1995 to 2008-09

Percentages and numbers (thousand)—BCS

											Statistically significant change	
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:[1]	*1995*	*1997*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*1995 to 2008-09*	*2007-08 to 2008-09*
Drugs	655	603	549	544	474	390	531	398	390	334	**	—
Unweighted	16,348	14,947	32,824	36,479	37,931	45,120	47,729	47,138	46,903	46,220	—	—

[1] Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender(s) were perceived to be under school age.

[2] 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See section 5 of volume 2 for more information.

Notes:

For an explanation of year-labels see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

Taken from table 3.16 at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109chap3.xls

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private colleges of further education have been denied registration for the purpose of student visas since the introduction of the points-based scheme. [294011]

Mr. Woolas: In total 188 educational establishments have been denied registration under tier 4 of the points based system, with only one being a private college of further education.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets apply for timescales for processing visa applications at the British consulate in Islamabad. [293611]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* The UK Border Agency's agreed target times for processing visa applications, including those received by the Visa Section in Islamabad, are published on its Visa Services website:

www.ukvisa.gov.uk .

They are:

To complete 90 per cent. of straightforward, non-settlement applications in not more than a week, 98 per cent. in not more than two weeks, and 100 per cent. in not more 12 weeks.

To complete 90 per cent. of non-straightforward, non-settlement applications in not more than three weeks, 98 per cent. in not more than six weeks and 100 per cent. in not more than 12 weeks.

To complete 95 per cent. of applications for settlement visas in not more than 12 weeks and 100 per cent. in not more 24 weeks.

The quarterly performance against these targets of each visa processing centre is also published on the website.

We are aware that these targets are not being met in respect of applications made in Islamabad and are therefore taking urgent action to rectify this.

Firearms: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* handguns, *(b)* sawn-off shotguns and *(c)* unmodified shotguns were (i) used in crimes and (ii) confiscated in the Essex Constabulary area in each of the last five years. [295313]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data relate to crimes recorded by the police in Essex in which handguns, sawn-off shotguns and long-barrelled shotguns were reported to have been used, from 2003-04 up to and including 2007-08 and are shown in the following table.

Information on confiscated firearms is not available centrally.

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument, or used as a threat.

Crimes recorded by the police in Essex in which handguns, sawn-off shotguns and long-barrelled shotguns were reported to have been used, 2003-04 to 2007-08—Number of offences

Recorded crime

Principal weapon	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Handgun	84	37	76	86	66
Sawn-off shotgun	6	3	4	8	7
Long-barrelled shotgun	18	5	13	11	14

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions have been held between his Department, the Forensic Science Service (FSS) and chief constables on the proposed closure of FSS centres. [295988]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Such discussions have been a matter for FSS Ltd. The FSS is moving to the new structure in response to the requirements of customers, in line with the new National Forensic Procurement Framework. Consequently, it has consulted closely with customers. This has included corresponding with all chief constables in England and Wales to keep them informed of progress. With a number of chief constables, there have also been informal discussions, at the invitation of the then executive chairman.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria have been taken into account when assessing the costs and benefits of closing forensic science centres. [295990]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The new national structure will be based around four primary sites and a number of factors were carefully considered when selecting the sites to support this structure.

One of the main considerations was the co-location of body fluid examination with DNA analytical facilities to meet the FSS' customers' needs. DNA analytical facilities are currently based at Huntingdon, London, Trident Court and Wetherby.

Other considerations include available laboratory space, ability to deliver National Framework, resilient team sizes, response to scenes, mix of skills, alignment to the new structure and the presence of a business stream on at least two sites.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity card readers he expects to be provided for use by the general population; what estimate he has made of the cost of such readers; and what plans he has to determine the location of such readers. [294290]

Alan Johnson: Identity cards issued to British citizens can be used for travel in the European Economic Area, and so can already be read, in the same way as machine readable passports, at border controls at all significant points of entry to the United Kingdom. While identity card readers are likely to be used very widely eventually, there will need to be a critical mass of identity cards in use before this becomes feasible.

However, we have published information on how to recognise the new identity cards, and their security features and so anyone presented with an identity card will be able to verify the card by conducting a visual or tactile check of the card, without the need to invest in specialist equipment. As the number of identity cards in circulation builds up, we will continue to explore opportunities with the commercial sector and Government agencies for reader based identity services.

Motorcycles: Registration

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy and effectiveness of the regulatory regime affecting off-road bikes. [295920]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: No assessment has been made of the adequacy and effectiveness of the regulatory regime affecting off-road bikes. There is a range of powers available to tackle the misuse of off-road bikes, such as restrictions on legal use, warnings from a police officer for riding antisocially, and seizing and crushing bikes if riders ignore warnings.

Three independent reports have confirmed our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. The National Audit Office reported that two thirds of people stop committing ASB after one intervention rising to nine out of 10 ceasing after three interventions. The Home Office has commissioned an evaluation of the comparative effectiveness of ASB interventions. It is expected to report in the spring.

North Yorkshire Police: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the North Yorkshire police authority has spent in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1996-97. [295226]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is shown in the following table.

North Yorkshire police authority expenditure

	Gross expenditure (£ millions)[1]	
	Cash terms	*Real terms*
1996-97	69	52
1997-98	74	57
1998-99	79	62
1999-2000	82	66
2000-01	89	72
2001-02	101	84
2002-03	100	85
2003-04	106	93
2004-05	118	107
2005-06	139	128
2006-07	158	150
2007-08	154	150
2008-09[2]	150	150

[1] Figures quoted from CIPFA statistics 1996-97—2008-09

[2] Estimate

Offences Against Children

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what treatment programmes are made available to those convicted of offences of child abuse. [288879]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The National Offender Management Service delivers a broad range of interventions to address the particular risks and treatment needs of offenders that may benefit those convicted of offences of child abuse, depending on the circumstances of the particular case.

For those offenders convicted of child abuse, including sexual abuse, there are accredited programmes to address their offending behaviour, provided the offenders are assessed as suitable for participating in the programmes. In addition, there are accredited programmes and other interventions to address factors which may contribute to offending behaviour, such as alcohol or drug problems.

The responsibility for the commissioning of services including offending behaviour programmes now rests with the Directors of Offender Management. It is for them to commission services which meet the need to address the offending behaviour of offenders and the requirements of sentencers in their area.

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of reducing from 16 to 14 the age at which section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 applies. [295164]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The current age limit on directions to leave significantly limits their effectiveness as a tool for preventing alcohol related crime and disorder because it prevents the police from dealing with groups of young people of mixed ages. Clause 31 of the Policing and Crime Bill reduces the minimum age at which directions to leave can be issued from 16 to 10 so that the police can deal with all young people who are likely to be involved in crime and disorder and not just older children.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* UK Ministers and *(b)* Ministers from devolved administrations, will be included in the UK delegation to the UN framework convention on climate change conference in Copenhagen. [293422]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has not yet determined the full composition of the UK delegation, so we cannot say with certainty how many Ministers or officials will be included. This will depend largely on the state of international negotiations at the time of the conference. However, we would anticipate that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I will attend.

Ministers from devolved Administrations will not be attending as part of the UK delegation, though they have been invited to nominate an official to join the delegation if they wish to.

Power Factor Correction: Capital Allowances

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons Power Factor Correction is not included in the Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme; and whether he plans to include Power Factor Correction in the scheme. [293823]

Mr. Kidney: Power Factor Correction (PFC) was considered for the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme (ECA) in 2006, but not included because it was concluded that existing instruments provided a more effective incentive for the use of PFC.

We do not have plans to include PFC equipment in the ECA scheme, but if a new application to add PFC to the scheme were made, the Carbon Trust would reassess its suitability before advising DECC.

WALES

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295451]

Mr. Hain: My predecessor, the right hon. Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy), hosted one Christmas function at a cost of £1,054.05. Officials did not attend this reception.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he plans to take to assess public opinion on the adequacy of police coverage across the district command units of Northern Ireland. [293654]

Paul Goggins: A key role for the Policing Board and District Policing Partnerships is to engage directly with the public on policing matters, and to gauge public views on policing. This includes surveys on satisfaction levels with police patrols in local areas. In April 2009 the Policing Board published results of its Omnibus Survey 'Public perceptions of the police, DPPs and the Northern Ireland Policing Board'. This survey found that 42 per cent. of respondents were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their local area.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans the police in Northern Ireland have to inform persons interested in applying for police careers that from 2011 all applicants are to be treated on their merits alone. [295925]

Paul Goggins: The temporary 50:50 recruitment provisions will remain in force until the Government's target of 30 per cent. Catholic composition within PSNI regulars has been achieved. It is anticipated that this will occur before March 2011. After the provisions have ended, recruitment to the PSNI will operate on the same legal basis as to other occupations. It will be for the Chief Constable and the recruitment agent to decide how this message will be communicated to potential applicants in the future.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent from the Exchequer on *(a)* heritage, *(b)* sports and *(c)* the arts in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each year since 1997. [296282]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows funding by the Exchequer for the arts, sports and heritage sector in cash and real terms since 1997.

£ million

	The arts sector including support functions	*Real terms 2008-09*	*The sports sector including support function*	*Real terms 2008-09*	*Heritage sector including support functions*	*Real terms 2008-09*
1997-98	196.4	255.5	50.1	65.2	182.3	237.1
1998-99	199.7	254.4	49.4	62.9	169.4	215.8
1999-2000	229.8	287.0	51.6	64.5	171.1	213.8
2000-01	238.8	294.4	52.6	64.8	175.8	216.7

£ million

	The arts sector including support functions	*Real terms 2008-09*	*The sports sector including support function*	*Real terms 2008-09*	*Heritage sector including support functions*	*Real terms 2008-09*
2001-02	252.9	305.1	63.9	77.0	184.9	223.0
2002-03	301.5	352.2	109.8	128.2	186.1	217.4
2003-04	367.6	417.8	78.9	89.7	383.6	435.9
2004-05	398.2	440.2	111.5	123.3	196.7	217.4
2005-06	410.6	445.6	117.5	127.6	196.1	212.8
2006-07	430.4	453.7	169.5	178.7	208.0	219.3
2007-08	425.9	436.3	193.9	198.7	211.7	216.9
2008/09	435.8	435.8	215.8	215.8	221.6	221.6

These data have been drawn from the published DCMS Appropriation Accounts and Resource Accounts, which are audited by the National Audit Office.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295728]

Mr. Simon: My Department does not directly operate any helplines.

National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills: Thurrock

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills during the summer adjournment on funding provision for the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in Thurrock; and if he will make a statement. [295802]

Mr. Simon: My hon. Friend the member for Stevenage, then Minister for Culture and Tourism, discussed the Creative and cultural National Skills Academy with my hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff West during the recess.

The discussion highlighted the National Skills Academy's importance both to the cultural sector and to the regional and national economy.

My Department is working closely with colleagues at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to ensure that the skills needs for this important sector are met.

Olympic Games 2012: Culture

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Cultural Olympiad is taking to celebrate the British cultural contribution to sport and the Olympics. [292333]

Margaret Hodge: The Cultural Olympiad Board is working with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and partners throughout the cultural sector to deliver the Cultural Olympiad.

This is a great opportunity to celebrate the best of our British culture. We are doing so in a number of ways, putting culture at the heart of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. There are 10 proposed major national projects, which will form the backbone of our London 2012 cultural activities, encompassing everything from art to music to theatre. The Olympic Lottery Distributor recently announced a grant of £15.6 million to support these projects.

There is also a UK-wide programme for cultural projects that have identified their own funding. LOCOG estimates that over £5 million has been raised by these projects. Over 100 cultural organisations have successfully applied to be part of the Cultural Olympiad UK-wide programme and they demonstrate that link by being given the LOCOG Inspire Mark.

Overseas Visitors

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what effect his Department estimates the reduction in VisitBritain's budget will have on international visitor numbers to the UK in 2010. [293122]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain's budget was set in 2007, in the context of expected efficiencies through increased and better use of technology, changing priorities with new and emerging markets, internal restructuring and more focused marketing. The Department does not therefore believe there has been a direct impact from this on international visitor numbers. Visitor numbers have, however, been affected by the global downturn as they have in other countries.

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation estimates that total global arrivals will decline by between 4 and 6 per cent. in 2009, and VisitBritain has forecast that the number of international visitors to the UK could decline by up to 5 per cent. in 2009. In the first eight months of 2009, 9 per cent. fewer overseas visitors came to the UK compared to the same period in 2008. However, overseas visitors' spend over this period is only 1 per cent. lower than in 2009.

VisitBritain invested £3.5 million in a 'Value for Money Campaign' during the spring and summer of 2009 to encourage more inward bound tourism. The campaign emphasised favourable currency exchange rates and the very high quality of the tourism offer in this country.

Sports: Clubs

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of sports clubs were eligible to participate in the community amateur sports club scheme in each local authority area in the North West in each year since the scheme was introduced; and how many and what proportion of eligible sports clubs joined the scheme in each such year. [296437]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to determine how many sports clubs could be eligible for participation in the Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) scheme. Neither do Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), who administer the scheme, separately identify CASCs by local authority area. A list of registered clubs, and their addresses, is published on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/casc/

and is updated on a monthly basis.

To the 5 October 2009, 5456 clubs had registered as CASCs. The yearly breakdown since the scheme was introduced is in the following table.

	New clubs registering	*Total registrations*
2003	557	557
2004	1447	2004
2005	1500	3504
2006	637	4141
2007	387	4528
2008	550	5078
2009	378	5456

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices: Industrial Health and Safety

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the application of health and safety requirements on apprentices under the age of 18 years. [295998]

Mr. Iain Wright: The health and safety of young people in the workplace is one of the foremost concerns of the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) and Learning and Skills Council (LSC) when considering the suitability of training providers and employers in receiving financial support through our Apprenticeships programme. These duties are specified in all contracts with training providers and supporting guidance. The LSC and NAS are responsible to my Department and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for ensuring these contractual duties are carried out and that young people entering the workplace are properly protected. Employers remain subject to their legal responsibilities for apprentices as they do for other employees.

Children In Care

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases of residents absconding from children's care homes there have been in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [294772]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1069W. Figures for 2009 will be available by the end of the year.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many special guardianship orders have been granted in *(a)* England and *(b)* Essex in each year since their inception. [295304]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1733W.

National level figures for 2009 can be found in table D1 of Statistical First Release "Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2009", which is available on the Department's website via following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000878/index.shtml

Local authority figures for 2009 will be available by the end of the year.

Children: Human Rights

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission research to establish the lawfulness of practices used by institutions to restrict the freedom of movement of children. [289214]

Dawn Primarolo: All institutions are inspected by the relevant inspectorate. Where the inspectorate has reason to believe that the institution is using unlawful practices to restrict the movement of young people they will take appropriate enforcement action. We do not currently plan to commission research into the practices used by institutions to restrict the freedom of movement of children.

Family Intervention Projects

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department may take to deal with families which refuse to enter into a Family Intervention Project contract agreement; and if he will make a statement; [295338]

(2) how many families have refused to enter into a Family Intervention Project contract agreement; and if he will make a statement. [295344]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* While a family's initial involvement in a Family Intervention Project is voluntary, the projects draw on and drive home the implications of sanctions that a family or family members may already be facing. These include seeking possession of a family's tenancy, a parenting order, antisocial behaviour order, proceedings to take children into care and juvenile specific orders.

Provisional data from the Family Intervention Project (FIP) online monitoring information system, maintained by the National Centre for Social Research, show that as at 31 March 2009 of the 2,295 who have been offered a Family Intervention Project only 70 refused outright to enter into a contract and another 114 refused to enter into a contract after initially accepting the offer.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what proportion of schools in each index of multiple deprivation decile fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils obtained five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [295244]

Mr. Coaker: For 2008 figures I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1050-52W. School level figures for 2009 are currently being checked by schools as part of the annual results checking exercise prior to publication in the Achievement and Attainment Tables in January 2010. The requested information will be available shortly afterwards.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he plans to publish the School Sport Survey for 2008-09; [293879]

(2) how many schoolchildren participated in *(a)* two, *(b)* four and *(c)* five or more hours of sport each week in the latest period for which figures are available. [293882]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2008/09 School Sport Survey was published on 14 October. It can be found at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR168.pdf

The 2008/09 survey is the sixth undertaken by the Department on PE and Sport, but for the first time we have moved away from measuring two hours of PE and sport each week, which 90 per cent. of pupils participated in last year. Instead, as part of the strategy's overall move towards offering five hours of PE and sport for young people in schools and other settings, the survey measured participation in at least three hours of PE and out of hours sport each week in schools for the first time. The survey found that 50 per cent. of pupils in Years 1-13 (including 6th forms) participated in at least three hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport.

Schools: Vetting

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in his Department's Review of the definitions of frequency and intensity in the vetting and barring process; and if he will make a statement. [295377]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State has asked Sir Roger Singleton, chairman of the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the Government's Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children, to check whether the Government have drawn the line in the right place in relation to the degree of contact with children which should trigger the requirement to register with the new scheme. The Secretary of State's letter of 14 September 2009 to Barry Sheerman (copies of which are in the Libraries of both Houses) sets out the context of the issue Sir Roger has been asked to consider. Sir Roger has been asked to report to Minister[illegible] early December.

JUSTICE

Community Orders: Females

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women received community sentences with requirements in relation to *(a)* compulsory unpaid work, *(b)* participation in any specified activities, *(c)* prohibition from certain activities, *(d)* curfew, *(e)* exclusion, *(f)* residence, *(g)* mental health treatment, *(h)* drug rehabilitation, *(i)* alcohol treatment, *(j)* supervision and *(k)* attendance centres in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [295213]

Claire Ward: The following table shows the number of each of the requirements started by women under community orders in 2007 and 2008 who started probation service supervision in England and Wales. 2008 is the latest complete year for which published information is available.

Number of requirements started by women under community orders

Requirements[1]	*2007*	*2008*
Supervision	13,498	13,950
Unpaid work	8,509	8,791
Drug treatment	2,483	2,799
Accredited programme	3,199	2,794
Curfew	1,753	2,298
Specified activity	1,647	1,937
Alcohol treatment	541	785
Exclusion	128	163
Residential	160	157
Mental health	119	149
Prohibited activity	105	118
Attendance centre	43	40
Total	32,185	33,981

[1] The figures show the number of requirements started by women under community orders. There were 18,287 women who started these orders in 2007, and 19,191 in 2008.

Note:

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Criminal Proceedings: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to assist armed forces veterans in the criminal justice system; [294505]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of armed forces veterans who are in the criminal justice system. [294506]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service, the Ministry of Defence and third sector partners, have made significant progress in further developing the range of services and support available for veterans who have offended. New posters and leaflets have been distributed in order to promote the support that is on offer to veterans in prison and after release. Prison officers have been given access to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency website and, where Governors allow, prisoners have direct access to their free helpline. Charities providing support have access to veterans for welfare visits which do not count against prisoners' personal visits allowance.

A guide for prison officers working with veterans is under development this has been informed by good practice in existence in a number of prisons and work is in progress to prepare instructions for probation staff supervising ex-service personnel, in the community.

New IT-based offender assessment procedures include questioning to identify offenders who have served in the armed forces. This is in the early stages of roll out across the prison estate and will be fully implemented by May 2010.

While we acknowledge that we are currently unable to identify all of those prisoners who are veterans, we are confident that assessment at induction will signpost offenders, according to need, to the range of generic interventions that are available. This will include mental health in-reach, referral to the Medical Assessment Programme at St. Thomas' Hospital providing specialist health assessment for veterans and referral to Combat Stress Treatment Centres for help with anxiety management, post-traumatic stress, sleep disorder and grief. To complement this, the Prison Service provides a range of 14 Offending Behaviour Programmes, six Drug Programmes and a therapeutic community at Grendon prison.

Work is ongoing to quantify the numbers of armed forces veterans in the criminal justice system. Data matching will begin during November and we will disseminate the numbers identified by December. Discussions are underway with a view to extending this to encompass offenders serving community sentences. We anticipate that the data will enable us to examine some of the paths into offending, make decisions about whether more specific services need to be developed and provide more targeted support.

Custodial Treatment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each age band were sentenced to immediate custody for non-violent and non-sexual offences in each year since 1997; [295819]

(2) how many people *(a)* of either sex and *(b)* in each age band were in custody for non-violent and non-sexual offences in each year since 1997. [295820]

Claire Ward: The information requested for how many people of each sex and in each age band were sentenced to immediate custody for non-violent and non-sexual offences in each year since 1997 is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Number of people sentenced to immediate custody, by sex and age for non violent and non sexual offences since 1997

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Male											
10-17	4,009	3,991	4,055	3,747	3,676	3,439	2,896	2,815	2,619	2,681	2,522
18-20	8,853	9,381	9,669	9,776	9,121	8,519	7,065	6,718	6,255	6,116	6/412
21 and over	38,150	41,228	42,557	43,105	42,842	46,387	45,186	43,901	41,607	39,158	39,367
Total	51,012	54,600	56,281	56,628	55,639	58,345	55,147	53,434	50,481	47,955	48,301
Female											
10-17	132	148	222	228	193	235	179	173	191	153	176
18-20	418	617	687	822	765	751	681	507	535	507	417
21 and over	3,545	4,221	4,860	4,920	5,112	5,585	5,664	5,646	5,134	4,953	5,026
Total	4,095	4,986	5,769	5,970	6,070	6,571	6,524	6,326	5,860	5,613	5,619

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

These figures are based on published figures in "Sentencing Statistics 2007" pivot tables at;

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

They include all categories in published figures except totals for violence against the person, robbery, and sexual offences, and summary offences.

The table shows the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody for non violent and non sexual offences, by sex and age. The data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Table 2 shows the prison population in all prison establishments in England and Wales sentenced for non-violent and non-sexual offences, in each year since 2003, the earliest available year.

Table 2: Prisoners sentenced for non violent and non-sexual offences

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Male							
15-17	936	876	929	882	857	844	633
Young adults (18-20)	3,272	3,075	2,843	2,744	3,023	3,018	3,012
Adults (21 and over)	25,836	26,351	26,209	26,076	25,654	26,572	25,605
Total	30,044	30,302	29,981	29,702	29,534	30,434	29,250
Female							
15-17	26	37	16	23	23	26	17
Young adults (18-20)	209	185	157	158	132	169	111
Adults (21 and over)	2,299	2,207	2,285	2,297	2,145	2,219	2,028
Total	2,534	2,429	2,458	2,478	2,300	2,414	2,156

These figures are based on those published at the following websites:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

and

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

where sub-totals for violence against the person, sexual offences, and robbery have been excluded. Juveniles in Secure Training Centres and Local Authority Secure Children's Homes are excluded.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Electoral Register

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many years the data gathered on electoral registers are retained; whether such data are retained centrally; and if he will make a statement. [295677]

Mr. Wills: There is no specific legislative provision that specifies that data gathered on electoral registers may only be retained for a set period. It is for electoral registration officers to determine how long the information should be retained having regard to relevant principles, including those set out in the Data Protection Act.

The Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 (S.I.2001/341), and the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (S.I.2001/497), as amended, and the Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008 (S.I.2008/1741) set out the regulatory regime governing access to the electoral register.

Data gathered on electoral registers are not retained centrally. However, under the regulations, relevant parts of the full register may be supplied by an electoral registration officer to certain persons and bodies for use for specific purposes, including statistical and crime prevention purposes. It is for each organisation to determine how long they wish to retain the electoral register for, and I understand national libraries retain them indefinitely.

Homicide: Prisoners Release

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of murder have been released from prison in each of the last 10 years; what their original prison sentence was in each case; how much time in prison each served; and if he will make a statement. [295346]

Claire Ward: The Courts must impose a mandatory life sentence on any individual convicted of murder. This is the only sentence available for such a conviction.

The following table gives the numbers of such prisoners first released in each of the last 10 years from all prison establishments in England and Wales, and the amount of time served at point of release. It is clear there are fewer offenders serving longer sentences.

Year of first release	*Number of mandatory lifers*	*Average time served (years)*
1999	110	13
2000	101	13
2001	111	13
2002	117	14
2003	185	15
2004	152	14
2005	156	14
2006	100	14
2007	90	16
2008	98	16

This table is taken from table 9.5 in "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008", a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Human Trafficking: Compensation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many compensation orders against convicted human traffickers there have been in each of the last three years; and how much money has been realised as a result. [294867]

Maria Eagle: According to the Ministry's court proceedings database, there were no offenders ordered to pay compensation for offences relating to human trafficking in the years 2005-2007, the latest three years for which data are available. Data for 2008 will be available when 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' is published.

Injunctions

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what information his Department holds on the number of non-reportable injunctive orders each judge of the High Court has issued in each of the last five years; [295031]

(2) if he will *(a)* collate and *(b)* publish statistics on the numbers of injunctions issued in the High Court in the last five years where the claimants have been granted anonymity in the listed name of the case. [295034]

Mr. Straw: Information [illegible] injunctions granted and the judges who made them [illegible] held on the court file relating to the relevant case. Although the High Court in England and Wales collects figures on applications generally, applications relating to injunctions are not separately identifiable, and there are currently no plans to amend databases to make them so. Only if an inquiry is made with the relevant details of the case would it be possible, by reference to the case file, to ascertain if a non-reportable injunction had been made and the identity of the relevant judge.

Legal Aid

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal aid lawyers (1) dealt with *(a)* housing cases, *(b)* employment cases and *(c)* family cases in (i) Mid Bedfordshire constituency, (ii) the East of England and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years; [295412]

(2) dealing with immigration and asylum cases there were in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [295413]

Bridget Prentice: Figures are only available for the last nine years, since the Access to Justice Act came in. Information is not held on the number of practitioners at each firm and instead shows the number of solicitor offices providing legal aid services each year.

Prior to the introduction of the civil unified contract in April 2007 and criminal unified contract in July 2008, legal aid providers delivering services in more than one office would hold separate contracts for each of those offices. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) now contracts with legal aid firms but each firm may have several offices. The office then holds a schedule or schedules that enable it to undertake work in each category of law. Therefore, from the introduction of the unified contracts, the total figures do not represent the total number of offices.

Over the period there has been a downward trend in the overall number of solicitor offices dealing with legal aid. This is because there has been a continuing process of offices that do only small amounts of legal aid work leaving the market or merging with other offices, so that the work is done in larger volumes at fewer offices. In addition, the Legal Services Commission has over time sought to terminate dormant accounts where no work was being done.

The figures requested are available in the following tables.

England and Wales

Financial years	*Family*	*Housing*	*Employment*	*Immigration asylum*[1]
2000-01 (Start)	4,593	799	384	458
2000-01 (End)	4036	673	300	482
2001-02 (Start)	3,819	614	256	438
2001-02 (End)	3,757	585	240	514
2002-03 (Start)	3,645	563	218	500
2002-03 (End)	3,591	531	212	555
2003-04 (Start)	3,369	504	194	521
2003-04 (End)	3,270	471	187	513
2004-05 (Start)	3,072	450	163	380
2004-05 (End)	3,115	455	164	393
2005-06 (Start)	2,967	422	151	327
2005-06 (End)	2,881	420	136	264
2006-07 (Start)	2,784	410	128	239
2006-07 (End)	2,719	387	126	214
2007-08 (End)	2,679	370	114	182
2008-09 (End)	2,658	381	126	176

[1] The immigration/asylum categories were split in 2004 so we can only provide information on immigration and other after this point.

Local authority—mid Bedfordshire

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007 08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Employment	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	1	1
Housing	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	—
Immigration	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immigration Asylum	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immigration Other	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Family	8	7	8	8	7	6	5	5	5	4

Procurement area—east of England

Category of law/ Procurement area	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Employment										
Bedfordshire	5	3	3	3	5	5	6	2	5	5
Cambridgeshire	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	3	3
East Essex	9	7	6	5	4	5	4	3	6	6
Norfolk	12	8	6	6	5	5	5	1	2	2
North Hertfordshire	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	1
South Hertfordshire	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	1
Suffolk	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	—	2	2
West Essex	4	4	2	2	6	5	6	2	7	7
Housing										
Bedfordshire	9	8	9	9	7	6	6	5	8	5
Cambridgeshire	7	5	6	4	5	5	6	3	6	5
East Essex	11	9	8	7	8	6	5	3	7	7
Norfolk	13	11	9	6	8	9	8	3	5	5
North Hertfordshire	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	—	1	1
South Hertfordshire	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	4
Suffolk	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	3	4	4

Procurement area—east of England

Category of law/ Procurement area	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
West Essex	7	5	4	3	5	5	6	3	8	8
Immigration										
Bedfordshire	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Essex	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Hertfordshire	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Hertfordshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Essex	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immigration Asylum										
Bedfordshire	—	—	6	5	3	3	3	2	3	3
Cambridgeshire	—	—	3	1	—	1	1	2	4	3
East Essex	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	1	—	—
North Hertfordshire	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	1	—	—
South Hertfordshire	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immigration Other										
Bedfordshire	—	—	6	6	4	4	4	2	3	3
Cambridgeshire	—	—	5	3	3	5	4	2	4	3
East Essex	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
North Hertfordshire	—	—	3	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
South Hertfordshire	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Family										
Bedfordshire	42	38	38	35	34	31	30	30	27	25
Cambridgeshire	51	46	46	43	44	37	36	29	31	31
East Essex	44	41	40	32	31	29	27	22	24	24
Norfolk	69	61	53	48	50	44	42	41	39	37
North Hertfordshire	39	34	31	25	21	19	18	16	13	13
South Hertfordshire	43	37	36	30	27	24	17	23	25	23
Suffolk	55	48	47	46	46	43	41	41	40	38
West Essex	64	55	53	52	49	46	45	43	47	47

Legal Aid: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents of *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England there have been in each of the last five years. [295414]

Bridget Prentice: Applications for civil legal aid advice are made to individual providers, and the LSC records the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made. Applications for civil legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission. Not all applications are granted. The applications received for representation for the last five years in the requested areas is as follows:

Financial year	*Mid Bedfordshire constituency*	*East of England*	*England*
2004-05	173	15,732	180,591
2005-06	187	15,498	182,187
2006-07	151	14,935	177,309
2007-08	114	13,365	161,206
2008-09	130	13,670	171,492

Legal Aid: Immigration

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Legal Services Commission does not allow consortium bids for funding on immigration cases. [294862]

Bridget Prentice: Following consultation, the LSC proposed that consortium arrangements should only be permitted for core social welfare law categories such as debt, housing and welfare benefits. This was in order to ensure that integrated services can be provided for people who will often have multiple problems. In immigration cases, the necessary services are capable of being delivered by single providers; therefore there is not the need to allow consortium bids.

Providers will be able to bid for asylum and immigration new matter starts as part of the 2010 process and the number of starts available will vary from area to area according to demand. Providers will be required to do a minimum volume of cases in each area of law (except in Devon where only non-asylum starts will be made available).

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard Mr. D Smith. [296118]

Mr. Straw: I replied to the right hon. Member on 21 October. I apologise for the delay.

Prisoners Release

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released in each year since 2000 for which figures are available had already completed *(a)* a community sentence, *(b)* one custodial sentence, *(c)* more than one custodial sentence and *(d)* more than five custodial sentences. [295843]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows actual reoffending rates and frequency of reoffending per 100 offenders who were discharged from custody in the first quarter of each year from 2000 to 2007 (latest available data), broken down by the number of previous custodial sentences. Information is not available for the number of community sentences that an offender has previously received.

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found in:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm.

Table 1: Actual reoffending rates and frequency per 100 offenders for those discharged from custody, by number of previous custodial sentences, 2000, 2002-07 cohorts

Table 1: Actual reoffending rates and frequency per 100 offenders for those discharged from custody, by number of previous custodial sentences, 2000, 2002-07 cohorts

Number of previous custodial sentences	*Cohort year*	*Number of offenders released from custody*	*Actual reoffending rate*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
No previous custodial sentences	2000 Q1	5,657	28.6	108.2
	2002 Q1	5,134	30.8	122.7
	2003 Q1	4,610	26.7	99.0
	2004 Q1	4,773	25.1	85.9
	2005 Q1	4,500	22.4	75.4
	2006 Q1	4,637	21.5	67.8
	2007 Q1	3,939	22.7	72.3
One previous custodial sentence	2000 Q1	2,475	50.8	220.5
	2002 Q1	2,342	51.6	236.3
	2003 Q1	2,039	50.4	214.4
	2004 Q1	2,232	45.2	202.0
	2005 Q1	2,000	42.0	164.2
	2006 Q1	1,927	39.4	153.1
	2007 Q1	1,767	41.3	146.0
Between two and five previous custodial sentences	2000 Q1	4,612	63.8	319.3
	2002 Q1	4,739	66.9	361.9
	2003 Q1	4,337	65.0	336.4
	2004 Q1	4,760	61.1	286.7
	2005 Q1	4,315	58.7	256.3
	2006 Q1	4,015	54.4	226.0
	2007 Q1	3,534	53.8	237.4
More than five previous custodial sentences	2000 Q1	2,973	75.4	413.4
	2002 Q1	3,350	77.8	473.4
	2003 Q1	3,360	78.9	491.2
	2004 Q1	3,984	76.8	441.6
	2005 Q1	3,764	73.8	413.9
	2006 Q1	3,785	72.3	390.2
	2007 Q1	3,570	70.8	413.9
Total	2000 Q1	15,717	51.4	245.6
	2002 Q1	15,565	55.0	288.1
	2003 Q1	14,346	53.9	279.0
	2004 Q1	15,749	51.9	253.1
	2005 Q1	14,579	49.1	228.5
	2006 Q1	14,364	46.5	208.4
	2007 Q1	12,810	47.2	223.2

Note:

Please note that data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders. Since it will not substantially increase the knowledge on the current progress on reoffending, no resources have been allocated to fix this problem.

Prisoners: Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were found guilty of *(a)* possession of and *(b)* drug dealing offences involving (i) cannabis,

(ii) ecstasy, (iii) cocaine, (iv) crack cocaine and (v) heroin in each year since 1997; and how many received (A) a custodial sentence, (B) a community sentence, (C) a treatment order, (D) a fine and (E) another punishment. [295898]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for possession of, and dealing in, certain drugs, by sentence, England and Wales, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

The statistics given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for possession of, and dealing in, certain drugs, by sentence, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Period	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence[4]*	*Drug treatment and testing order[5]*	*Fine*	*Otherwise dealt with*
1997	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	17,275	17,227	268	1,505	n/a	11,890	3,564
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	2,499	2,475	1,129	917	n/a	212	217
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,414	1,400	650	493	n/a	145	112
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	1,048	1,049	62	282	n/a	564	141
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	544	537	410	89	n/a	15	23
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	310	301	228	53	n/a	9	11
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	1,050	1,046	70	237	n/a	624	115
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	291	287	228	32	n/a	10	17
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	137	134	102	24	n/a	4	4
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	195	194	20	38	n/a	104	32
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	38	37	32	3	n/a	1	1
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	66	67	57	4	n/a	4	2
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	3,248	3,250	319	1,078	n/a	1,138	715
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	744	726	604	83	n/a	8	31
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	789	779	659	90	n/a	11	19
	Total	29,648	29,509	4,838	4,928	n/a	14,739	5,004
1998	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	22,643	22,616	410	2,042	n/a	15,503	4,661
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	2,648	2,713	1,284	990	n/a	244	195
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,442	1,458	656	509	n/a	155	138
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	753	743	51	185	n/a	408	99
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	304	291	217	51	n/a	11	12
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	246	249	179	46	n/a	5	19
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	1,644	1,642	103	349	n/a	1,003	187

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for possession of, and dealing in, certain drugs, by sentence, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Period	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence[4]*	*Drug treatment and testing order[5]*	*Fine*	*Otherwise dealt with*
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	334	332	260	48	n/a	9	15
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	223	213	161	30	n/a	14	8
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	369	361	48	91	n/a	192	30
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	88	85	73	8	n/a	3	1
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	91	84	68	7	n/a	6	3
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	4,331	4,311	500	1,493	n/a	1,505	813
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	822	830	656	131	n/a	13	30
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	892	903	737	119	n/a	7	40
	Total	36,830	36,831	5,403	6,099	n/a	19,078	6,251
1999	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	22,623	22,672	451	2,148	—	15,215	4,858
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	2,246	2,316	1,112	789	—	197	218
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,168	1,209	573	438	—	116	82
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	1,262	1,253	69	344	—	681	159
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	451	454	338	84	—	16	16
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	231	227	173	39	—	6	9
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	2,039	2,035	146	409	—	1,243	237
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	346	345	282	42	—	8	13
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	322	310	262	29	—	10	9
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	491	483	50	119	-	246	68
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	74	72	62	6	—	2	2
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	116	122	107	10	—	2	3
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	4,814	4,836	591	1,626	3	1,660	956
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	883	912	741	117	—	18	36
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,144	1,126	953	126	1	6	40
	Total	38,210	38,372	5,910	6,326	4	19,426	6,706
2000[6]	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	20,602	20,676	361	1,967	1	13,539	4,808
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,802	1,859	808	725	2	150	174
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	842	870	405	318	—	68	79

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for possession of, and dealing in, certain drugs, by sentence, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Period	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*[4]	*Drug treatment and testing order*[5]	*Fine*	*Otherwise dealt with*
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	1,995	1,978	108	568	1	1,014	287
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	736	736	520	162	—	20	34
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	327	335	234	78	—	10	13
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	1,875	1,884	140	418	—	1,117	209
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	364	350	295	34	1	10	10
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	258	246	193	32	—	8	13
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	502	506	63	124	—	265	54
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	90	90	83	3	—	1	3
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	98	109	95	10	—	1	3
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	5,060	5,082	605	1,698	18	1,703	1,058
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	921	943	792	102	3	8	38
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,229	1,279	1,069	169	3	6	32
	Total	36,669	36,943	5,771	6,408	29	17,920	6,815
2001	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	20,752	20,736	290	1,993	21	12,960	5,472
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,358	1,401	618	535	8	100	140
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	613	623	265	241	2	60	55
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	2,403	2,485	151	796	7	1,201	330
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	960	982	690	231	4	20	37
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	376	377	252	87	1	14	23
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	1,968	1,977	147	468	21	1,107	234
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	456	444	359	53	8	9	15
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	300	288	235	32	6	5	10
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	633	626	75	170	13	281	87
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	121	118	93	12	2	5	6
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	134	136	117	13	4	—	2
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	5,411	5,436	635	1,651	154	1,856	1,140
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	1,004	1,023	848	99	20	24	32
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,203	1,216	1,000	130	39	5	42
	Total	37,782	37,868	5,775	6,511	310	17,647	7,625

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for possession of, and dealing in, certain drugs, by sentence, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Period	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*[4]	*Drug treatment and testing order*[5]	*Fine*	*Otherwise dealt with*
2002	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	23,655	23,627	241	2,674	28	14,123	6,561
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,388	1,383	547	631	1	103	101
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	592	598	258	226	3	51	60
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	2,165	2,170	100	629	7	1,078	356
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	830	843	578	212	3	22	28
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	365	364	216	113	4	13	18
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	2,230	2,233	142	469	10	1,332	280
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	554	538	430	73	4	13	18
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	371	367	311	32	4	8	12
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	802	786	87	181	7	394	117
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	179	161	131	24	1	2	3
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	142	133	116	13	4	—	—
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	5,042	5,040	560	1,434	150	1,758	1,138
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	962	945	774	87	30	9	45
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,234	1,243	1,044	111	38	4	46
	Total	40,511	40,431	5,535	6,909	294	18,910	8,783
2003	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	25,714	25,665	288	3,103	55	15,172	7,047
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,470	1,462	475	748	15	111	113
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	522	514	222	213	4	33	42
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	2,009	2,001	81	569	7	1,023	321
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	746	743	461	212	7	24	39
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	219	218	127	62	4	10	15
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	2,448	2,455	153	528	18	1,411	345
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	687	682	564	63	11	19	25
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	456	468	409	38	3	5	13
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	868	862	109	226	11	381	135
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	238	235	195	27	5	2	6

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for possession of, and dealing in, certain drugs, by sentence, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Period	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*[4]	*Drug treatment and testing order*[5]	*Fine*	*Otherwise dealt with*
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	227	211	180	8	13	2	8
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	4,556	4,563	484	1,173	191	1,541	1,174
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	1,100	1,121	884	142	50	12	33
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,308	1,350	1,095	126	83	7	39
	Total	42,568	42,550	5,727	7,238	477	19,753	9,355
2004[7]	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	13,320	13,302	161	2,390	45	6,972	3,734
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1247	1210	420	604	8	79	99
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	456	444	156	204	5	43	36
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	1,853	1,849	60	598	7	840	344
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	603	603	394	166	10	10	23
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	172	165	100	54	2	5	4
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	2,740	2,737	132	571	35	1,516	483
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	792	796	658	92	12	14	20
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	446	442	371	49	13	3	6
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	862	846	79	202	39	328	198
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	247	232	190	31	7	3	1
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	266	239	196	25	8	—	10
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	4,256	4,258	428	1,113	238	1,405	1,074
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	1,175	1,145	913	125	64	3	40
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,415	1,409	1,164	121	94	7	23
	Total	29,850	29,677	5,422	6,345	587	11,228	6,095
2005	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	12,095	12,050	136	2415	17	6316	3166
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	993	950	272	513	13	62	90
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	393	367	135	153	6	25	48
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	1,677	1,672	61	513	18	761	319
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	557	551	342	156	9	8	36
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	187	172	91	50	9	7	15
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	3,183	3,161	154	727	43	1,731	506

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for possession of, and dealing in, certain drugs, by sentence, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Period	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*[4]	*Drug treatment and testing order*[5]	*Fine*	*Otherwise dealt with*
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	956	930	748	104	25	14	39
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	490	451	316	62	32	14	27
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	925	921	107	228	34	386	166
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	318	303	246	22	14	7	14
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	276	265	198	30	27	1	9
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	3,955	3,943	384	1,026	215	1,230	1,088
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	1,123	1,118	848	146	79	5	40
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,305	1,252	902	156	145	5	44
	Total	28,433	28,106	4,940	6,301	686	10,572	5,607
2006	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	12,536	12,452	141	2526	1	6368	3416
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	957	884	240	378	—	29	237
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	385	352	101	118	—	21	112
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	1,539	1,524	62	478	—	672	312
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	434	419	256	77	1	10	75
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	169	164	81	45	1	14	23
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	4,001	3,981	187	981	3	2,055	755
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	1,006	986	774	92	2	9	109
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	502	502	358	65	4	12	63
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	975	973	86	290	2	392	203
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	300	298	231	44	1	3	19
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	278	272	202	37	—	4	29
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	3,961	3,939	370	1,200	8	1,159	1,202
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	1,103	1,101	847	150	5	8	91
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,181	1,166	810	192	18	—	146
	Total	29,327	29,013	4,746	6,673	46	10,756	6,792
2007	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	14,073	14,004	162	3,009	—	6,839	3,994
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	958	910	232	340	—	32	306
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cannabis and cannabis resin.	367	354	101	120	—	29	104

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for possession of, and dealing in, certain drugs, by sentence, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Period	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*[4]	*Drug treatment and testing order*[5]	*Fine*	*Otherwise dealt with*
	Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA.	1,590	1,571	70	505	—	618	378
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	513	509	276	87	—	7	139
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : MDMA.	169	158	73	34	—	2	49
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine.	4,901	4,882	213	1,350	—	2,307	1,012
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cocaine.	1,171	1,165	837	119	—	19	190
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Cocaine.	542	526	353	70	—	6	97
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Crack cocaine.	1,236	1,211	106	368	—	409	328
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Crack cocaine.	369	364	276	45	1	3	39
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in) : Crack cocaine.	255	261	206	28	—	1	26
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin.	4,664	4,628	416	1,428	1	1,335	1,448
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Heroin.	1,144	1,138	877	136	3	6	116
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug,, (or being concerned in) : Heroin.	1,178	1,159	829	149	—	4	177
	Total	33,130	32,840	5,027	7,788	5	11,617	8,403

[1] These data are on the principal-offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The 'total sentenced' column may exceed the 'found guilty' column, as it may be the case that a defendant was found guilty in one year and sentenced in the following year.

[4] Excludes Drug Treatment and Testing Order which is given separately.

[5] Following a pilot study, rolled out across England and Wales from October 2000.

[6] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[7] Cannabis was re-classified to a class C drug in January 2004. Re-classification to class B was made in January 2009.

n/a not available.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Prisoners: Food

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was allocated for prison food on average per prisoner per day in the last 12 months. [296225]

Maria Eagle: For the current financial year the National Offender Management Service introduced a benchmark of £2.10 food costs per prisoner per day. Many establishments already operate below this level and provide acceptable meals. Those operating above the benchmark are working towards reducing their costs with appropriate support.

Evidence and experience has proven that acceptable healthy meals can be provided in prisons within this level of funding by carefully managing menu content and using key messages from the Department of Health about promoting a healthy diet.

The average public sector Prison Service daily food cost per prisoner includes all food and beverage requirements. Prisons provide breakfast, midday and evening meal and a supper snack together with all condiments and beverages.

Menu requirements vary between establishments and are based on the prisoner population, local regimes and seasonal availability.

Prisoners: Suicide

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanism is in place to assess the compliance of prison establishments with suicide watch monitoring standards. [295478]

Claire Ward: The National Offender Management Service's (NOMS') Standards Audit provides assurance to the Director General and senior managers on the management of risk throughout the service. This is done through objective measurement of performance against standards in establishments and courts. This process supports continuous improvement and informs the issue and review of standards, the dissemination of good practice and implementation of policy.

The standards which establishments are required to meet are specified in Performance Standard 60, Suicide and Self Harm Reduction. Auditing of establishments' performance against Standard 60 is carried out independently by NOMS' Standards Audit.

NOMS has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This requires proactively identifying prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm. At-risk prisoners are cared for using Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures.

Prisons: Mother and Baby Units

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children born in custody were subsequently taken away from their mothers while in custody in each of the last 10 years. [295826]

Maria Eagle: Figures on the number of children born and subsequently separated from their mother while in custody are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mothers who have their children with them in custody will be located in a Mother and Baby Unit (MBU). Babies can remain with their mothers in an MBU up to the age of 18 months, and a condition of admission to an MBU is that a separation plan is agreed between the mother and the care team. The child will leave the MBU when it is considered to be in their best interest. Ideally the process of separation will be voluntary, gradually staged and, wherever possible, conducted over a period of time known and clearly understood by all parties involved. The desirable scenario is that a mother and child will leave an MBU together when the mother is released from prison.

Not all mothers who give birth in custody keep their children with them. This may be because Social Services have made the decision in the child's best interests that mother and child should be separated at birth, or because the mother has decided that the child should be cared for by a relative or friend. It may also be because the mother has been refused a place on an MBU, and if this is the case the application process will have involved Social Services and liaison will be maintained with them and the family in determining the future care of the child.

Remand in Custody

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were remanded in custody in each of the last five years. [295681]

(2) how many people have been given bail by the courts in each year since 2006. [295705]

(3) what proportion of requests for remand made by the Crown Prosecution Service were granted by the courts in the latest period for which figures are available. [295757]

Claire Ward: The estimated number of persons remanded in custody at all courts in England and Wales in each year throughout the period 2003-07 (latest available) is shown in the table following table.

The estimated number of persons granted bail by all magistrates' courts and the Crown court in England and Wales during 2006 and 2007 (latest available) was and 493,800 and 485,200 respectively.

During 2007, an estimated four percent of all defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and the Crown Court were remanded in custody at some point during proceedings. Remands data held on the Office for Criminal Justice Reform Court Proceedings Database do not include information on the reasons for remanding a defendant in custody and do not identify the entity responsible for bringing the prosecution.

These figures are taken from data on the use of court bail and remand presented in Chapter 4 of the publication Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007 and include those also held in custody for some but not the whole period of the proceedings. Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

The estimated numbers[1] of persons remanded in custody at magistrates' courts or the Crown Court[2], England and Wales, 2003-07

			Thousand		
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Number of persons remanded in custody[3]	106.7	907	82.2	76.7	74.5

[1] Includes estimates for those offences omitted from data supplied.

[2] Crown Court cases are not necessarily concluded in the same year as the committal therefore the figures presented may include cases where defendants were remanded in custody during earlier years than under which they are presented in this table.

[3] Includes those remanded for part of the time in custody and part on bail.

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
2. For Magistrates' courts cases, the number of remands and more importantly, the number which are in custody, are believed to be under-recorded in total. The extent of under-recording is not known, as only limited checks are available with independently collected data. However, it is clear that the breakdown of remands into bail and custody cases is not accurate for a number of forces. The accuracy of data about Crown Court remand decisions has improved as a result of data being returned directly from the Crown Court computer system.

Source:

OCJR Court proceedings Database.

Trafigura: Injunctions

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Prime Minister's Answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 204, what steps he plans to take to assess the implications of the injunction obtained in the High Court by Trafigura in the case listed as (1) RJW (2) SJW-and-(1) The Guardian (2) Persons unknown for *(a)* parliamentary privilege, *(b)* investigative reporting and *(c)* legislative safeguards for whistleblowers. [294858]

Mr. Straw: I have asked senior officials at the Ministry of Justice to meet representatives of the national press and to consult the judiciary to assess the situation. I will then consider the situation in the light of these discussions and will make a statement in due course.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Construction: Procurement

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts for construction works his Department has put out to tender and then withdrawn in each of the last three years. [292974]

Mr. McFadden: This Department and its predecessors have not withdrawn any contracts for construction works put out to tender during the period covered by the question.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much it cost to establish his Department following the machinery of government changes in June 2009. [296338]

Mr. McFadden: The costs of the merger to date are £160,000, primarily on changes to accommodation and building signage, offset by savings from removing duplication.

Higher Education: Admissions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 21 years and under and *(b)* over 21 years old in each socio-economic group resident in (i) Twickenham constituency, (ii) Richmond-upon-Thames, (iii) London and (iv) England attended university in each of the last five years. [294755]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in tables 1 to 4. The figures are for full-time undergraduate entrants as socio-economic class information is not available for part-time higher education students.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2010.

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate entrants[1] from Twickenham parliamentary constituency by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
Socio-economic classification	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21
Higher managerial and professional occupation	170	10	205	10	185	5	185	5	205	5
Lower managerial and professional occupations	155	20	205	20	200	10	195	15	230	15
Intermediate occupations	90	10	80	10	85	10	85	10	95	15
Small employers and own account workers	25	0	40	0	35	5	30	0	40	5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	10	0	20	0	15	0	10	0	20	0
Semi-routine occupations	35	10	40	10	45	10	35	15	55	5
Routine occupations	10	0	10	5	15	5	10	5	10	5
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	495	50	600	55	585	45	550	55	655	50
Missing[4]	110	90	120	80	200	85	170	80	150	115

[1] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students. Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2: Full-time undergraduate entrants[1] from Richmond Upon Thames local authority area by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
Socio-economic classification	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21
Higher managerial and professional occupation	320	10	350	15	325	15	320	10	370	15

Table 2: Full-time undergraduate entrants[1] from Richmond Upon Thames local authority area by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		*2004/05*		*2005/06*		*2006/07*		*2007/08*	
Lower managerial and professional occupations	285	40	335	35	330	20	325	25	370	30
Intermediate occupations	140	15	130	20	130	20	130	15	140	25
Small employers and own account workers	50	5	55	0	55	5	45	5	60	10
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	20	0	25	0	20	0	15	0	25	0
Semi-routine occupations	55	15	55	15	70	15	50	20	90	25
Routine occupations	20	5	15	5	25	10	15	10	20	5
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	885	95	960	90	955	85	905	90	1,070	100
Missing[4]	185	155	205	165	310	150	260	150	230	200

[1] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students. Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 3: Full-time undergraduate entrants[1] domiciled in Greater London by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		*2004/05*		*2005/06*		*2006/07*		*2007/08*	
Socio-economic classification	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21
Higher managerial and professional occupation	6,595	450	10,125	335	10,140	370	9,690	275	10,695	345
Lower managerial and professional occupations	8,520	1,350	10,750	925	10,780	910	10,155	775	10,730	865
Intermediate occupations	4,550	1,130	4,520	745	4,595	800	4,200	635	4,475	750
Small employers and own account workers	2,265	225	2,075	150	2,095	165	2,095	165	2,250	205
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1,215	95	1,395	110	1,545	95	1,505	105	1,490	100
Semi-routine occupations	3,850	1,230	2,730	795	3,035	910	2,885	815	3,200	1,035
Routine occupations	1,325	270	945	190	1,095	225	1,140	255	1,165	270
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	10	10	20	5	15	10	10	10	25	10
Total	28,335	4,760	32,560	3,255	33,310	3,485	31,680	3,040	34,035	3,575
Missing[4]	12,145	11,420	7,560	6,330	9,980	6,090	8,495	6,235	8,735	6,185

[1] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students. Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 4: Full-time undergraduate entrants[1] domiciled in England by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		*2004/05*		*2005/06*		*2006/07*		*2007/08*	
Socio-economic classification	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21	21 and under	Over 21
Higher managerial and professional occupation	45,215	1,905	45,400	1,725	45,735	1,955	44,625	1,635	48,435	1,790
Lower managerial and professional occupations	57,135	5,800	58,895	5,640	60,395	6,400	57,855	5,265	60,635	5,660
Intermediate occupations	24,715	5,395	25,370	4,990	26,295	5,520	24,885	4,385	26,285	5,105
Small employers and own account workers	13,185	1,045	13,425	895	13,965	1,155	14,260	890	14,870	1,090
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	9,355	600	9,000	575	9,640	750	9,310	560	9,605	725
Semi-routine occupations	20,210	5,470	20,260	5,260	22,505	6,155	22,085	5,585	24,065	6,845
Routine occupations	9,270	1,700	9,165	1,515	9,975	1,865	10,340	1,820	10,840	2,175
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	120	35	110	30	165	100	155	60	635	350
Total	179,210	21,945	181,630	20,625	188,665	23,895	183,515	20,200	195,370	23,740
Missing[4]	54,980	46,725	56,710	47,855	66,745	46,515	60,780	44,570	62,010	45,630

[1] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students. Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: East of England

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 21 years and under and *(b)* over 21 years old in each socio-economic group resident in (i) West Suffolk constituency, (ii) Suffolk and (iii) the East of England attended university in each of the last five years. [296062]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in Tables 1 to 3. The figures are shown for full-time undergraduate entrants as socio-economic class (SEC) information is not available for part-time higher education students. Figures are provided for entrants aged under 21, and 21 and over as the socio-economic class data have a different basis for these two distinct age groups. Socio-economic class is based on occupation information: those aged under 21 provide their parent's occupation, and those aged 21 and over provide their own occupation.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2010.

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate entrants from West Suffolk parliamentary constituency[1]—UK higher education institutions[2]: Academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Socio economic classification	Under 21	21 and over	Under 21	21 and over	Under 21	21 and over	Under 21	21 and over	Under 21	21 and over
Higher managerial and professional occupations	55	5	50	5	50	0	55	5	55	0
Lower managerial and professional occupations	55	5	80	5	70	5	85	0	100	15
Intermediate occupations	30	5	25	5	35	5	30	5	45	10
Small employers and own account workers	10	0	20	0	30	0	20	0	20	0
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	10	0	15	0	15	0	20	0	20	0

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate entrants from West Suffolk parliamentary constituency[1]—UK higher education institutions[2]: Academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Socio economic classification	Under 21	21 and over	Under 21	21 and over	Under 21	21 and over	Under 21	21 and over	Under 21	21 and over
Semi-routine occupations	20	5	30	5	30	10	30	5	35	5
Routine occupations	5	0	15	5	15	0	15	0	20	10
Missing[3]	60	40	50	55	65	55	70	35	85	30

[1] The table does not include entrants whose constituency cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

[3] Includes those classified as "Never worked and long-term unemployed", "Not classified" and "Missing".

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2: Full-time undergraduate entrants from Suffolk local authority[1]—UK higher education institutions[2]: Academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
Socioeconomic classification	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	530	20	515	25	565	20	550	20	665	25
Lower managerial and professional occupations	645	45	725	35	745	40	740	35	855	100
Intermediate occupations	245	35	265	30	285	35	255	30	340	70
Small employers and own account workers	140	10	160	10	170	15	190	10	200	20
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	105	5	105	10	115	5	95	5	165	20
Semi-routine occupations	165	30	185	30	195	45	205	45	275	80
Routine occupations	90	15	120	10	90	20	105	15	170	55
Missing[3]	430	315	420	330	570	285	480	285	655	375

[1] The table does not include entrants whose local authority cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

[3] Includes those classified as "Never worked and long-term unemployed", "Not classified" and "Missing".

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 3: Full-time undergraduate entrants from East Government Office Region[1]—UK higher education institutions[2]: Academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
Socioeconomic classification	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*	*Under 21*	*21 and over*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	4,230	225	5,375	265	5,470	275	5,230	245	6,040	165
Lower managerial and professional occupations	5,970	715	6,110	535	6,305	635	6,050	575	6,905	530
Intermediate occupations	2,195	575	2,510	480	2,735	500	2,515	400	2,850	400
Small employers and own account workers	1,370	135	1,360	105	1,460	120	1,425	105	1,615	95
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1,115	90	885	85	925	75	930	70	1,090	60
Semi-routine occupations	2,280	745	1,700	440	1,905	595	1,845	500	2,165	575
Routine occupations	1,375	280	745	130	765	180	875	185	985	190
Missing[3]	5,285	5,545	4,495	4,780	5,315	4,580	4,805	4,245	6,010	4,090

[1] The table does not include entrants whose Government office region cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

[3] Includes those classified as "Never worked and long-term unemployed", "Not classified" and "Missing".

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the 10,000 additional student places available in 2010-11 have *(a)* already been assigned to existing initiatives and *(b)* been reserved for (i) strategically important and (ii) vulnerable subjects. [296244]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has allocated 7,604 (full-time equivalent) additional student numbers (ASN) for 2010-11 to institutions to support existing initiatives such as those supported by the Strategic Development Fund. This allocation protects and enhances existing projects already being funded by the council. The remainder are the subject of a bidding process. The priorities for these places are Strategic and Vulnerable Subjects, and Health. The balance between the two groups is not yet known.

Internet

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of internet users in each local authority area whose internet access is via *(a)* dial-up modem, *(b)* asymmetrical digital subscriber line and *(c)* cable in 2008-09. [293017]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* This Department has made no estimation of the proportion of internet users in each local authority area whose internet access is via *(a)* dial-up modem, *(b)* asymmetrical digital subscriber line and *(c)* cable in 2008-09. However, figures from Ofcom indicate that in Q1 2009, 70 per cent. of UK homes had connection to internet, with 65 per cent. having fixed broadband connection. Cable connections constituted 21.5 per cent. of fixed broadband connections, with 5 per cent. of total internet connections being through dial-up modem, mobile broadband, satellite and ISDN lines.

National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills: Thurrock

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made during the summer recess on securing the funding package for the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in Thurrock; and if he will make a statement. [295804]

Kevin Brennan: My officials have been working with officials from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) over the summer to secure a way forward for this and other National Skills Academy capital proposals. On 9 September, Geoff Russell, Acting Chief Executive of the LSC, wrote to all National Skills Academies, setting out a process for taking capital proposals forward. Since then, the NSA Creative and Cultural proposal was approved by the LSC Regional Committee on 14 October and is due to be assessed by the LSC's national Capital Committee on 2 November; if successful, it would then be able to proceed to implementation.

I and colleagues from the Department for Communities and Local Government believe that the NSA Creative and Cultural has a key role to play in the regeneration of the Thames Gateway through transforming the delivery of skills to meet business needs in this important sector. It will play a valuable role in the development of technician skills in the Performing Arts in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics and will provide a centre of excellence in these skills not available elsewhere.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the funding provision for the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in Thurrock; and if he will make a statement. [295805]

Kevin Brennan: I can confirm that I had representations from my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Malik) during the summer recess in relation to the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural.

I and colleagues from the Department for Communities and Local Government believe that the NSA Creative and Cultural has a key role to play in the regeneration of the Thames Gateway through transforming the delivery of skills to meet business needs in this important sector. It will be playing a valuable role in the development of technician skills in the Performing Arts in the run up to the 2012 Olympics and will provide a centre of excellence in these skills not available elsewhere.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293494]

Mr. McFadden: The following non-departmental public bodies have sent representatives to the political party conferences listed in the following table:

NDPB	*Liberal Democrat party conference 2009*	*Labour party conference 2009*	*Conservative party conference 2009*
Hearing Aid Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Consumer Focus	Yes	Yes	Yes
Construction Industry Training Board	Yes	Yes	Yes
UK Commission for Employment and Skills	Yes	Yes	Yes
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Design Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
NESTA	Yes	Yes	Yes and also the SNP
East Midland Development Agency	Yes	Yes	Yes
North West Development Agency	Yes	Yes	Yes
South East England Development Agency	Yes	Yes	Yes
South West Regional Development Agency	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yorkshire Forward	Yes	Yes	Yes

Public Sector: Construction

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to facilitate the tendering of public sector contracts for construction works. [292973]

Mr. McFadden: This Department sponsors Constructionline, which is a pre-qualification database of construction contractors to be used by public sector buyers when looking for potential tenderers for construction works. Further information on this can be found on our web site at:

www.constructionline.co.uk

Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of industrial action at Royal Mail in 2009 to date. [295883]

Mr. McFadden: It is clear that postal disruption will have an impact on those businesses and services that heavily rely on Royal Mail services.

We continue to maintain regular contact with both the management and the union about the dispute. Our message to them is that, in the interests of Royal Mail, the CWU's members and the country, they should sit down and resolve this dispute through talks.

Vetting

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish regulations to outlaw blacklisting; if he will ensure that they *(a)* make it unlawful for companies to provide information to be used for the compilation of blacklists and *(b)* establish the right to damages for those named on any such lists; and if he will make a statement. [295707]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have received 52 responses to this summer's consultation on draft regulations. Many points for consideration were raised, but it firmly remains our intention to finalise the regulations as speedily as possible. The draft regulations published in the consultation already make it unlawful for a party to compile a list and they contain provisions for those suffering a loss to claim compensation for the damage inflicted.

HEALTH

Bolton and Wigan Primary Care Trust: Managers

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of senior managers *(a)* employed by Bolton and Wigan primary care trust and *(b)* who were employed by Bolton and Wigan strategic health authority in its final year of existence. [295504]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Bolton Primary Care Trust: Public Relations

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the management costs of Bolton Primary Care Trust spent on public relations activities in the latest period for which information is available. [295307]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of care homes did not meet the National Minimum Standard for Care Homes in 2008-09. [295607]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that, when inspecting care homes against the National Minimum Standards (NMS), the CQC rates their performance using a four point system:

standard not met with major shortfalls

standard not met with minor shortfalls

standard met

standard exceeded

The tables show ratings against the NMS by number and percentage of care homes for younger adults and older people for the year ending 31 March 2009—the latest year for which information is available.

Score against NMS for care homes for younger adults as at 31 March 2009

		Standard not met with major shortfalls		*Standard not met with minor shortfalls*		*Standard met*		*Standard exceeded*	
NMS		*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*
1	Information	94	1	[illegible]	19	5,172	75	375	5
2	Needs assessment	55	1	427	6	6,244	84	745	10
3	Meeting needs	117	2	556	9	5,301	84	349	6
4	Introductory visits	28	0	179	3	5,802	90	412	6
5	Contract	135	2	1,067	17	5,048	79	140	2
6	Service user plan	107	1	1,397	19	4,778	64	1,227	16
7	Decision making	35	0	542	7	5,881	78	1,047	14
8	Participation	52	1	486	8	5,235	83	554	9
9	Risk taking	81	1	962	13	5,691	76	769	10
10	Confidentiality	50	1	489	8	5,371	89	109	2

Score against NMS for care homes for younger adults as at 31 March 2009

		Standard not met with major shortfalls		*Standard not met with minor shortfalls*		*Standard met*		*Standard exceeded*	
NMS		*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*
11	Personal development	50	1	421	7	5,084	81	723	12
12	Education and occupation	35	0	467	6	5,669	76	1,332	18
13	Community links and social inclusion	26	0	404	5	5,915	79	1,158	15
14	Leisure	61	1	680	10	4,895	73	1,066	16
15	Relationships	4	0	133	2	6,547	87	816	11
16	Daily routines	26	0	351	5	6,095	81	1,021	14
17	Meals and mealtimes	25	0	462	6	6,200	83	809	11
18	Personal support	32	0	366	5	6,121	82	986	13
19	Healthcare	54	1	571	8	5,916	79	966	13
20	Medication	130	2	1,591	21	5,467	73	319	4
21	Ageing and death	70	1	628	11	4,664	83	261	5
22	Concerns and complaints	40	1	526	7	6,530	87	417	6
23	Protection	117	2	922	12	6,146	82	328	4
24	Premises	156	2	1,612	21	4,968	66	786	10
25	Space requirements	51	1	430	7	5,531	86	427	7
26	Furniture and fittings	74	1	806	12	5,193	80	399	6
27	Toilets and bathrooms	147	2	1,006	16	4,977	78	290	5
28	Shared space	59	1	679	11	5,267	82	397	6
29	Adaptations and equipment	77	1	592	10	5,050	85	220	4
30	Hygiene and control of infection	55	1	670	9	6,301	84	490	7
31	Roles	72	1	419	7	5,397	90	133	2
32	Qualities and qualifications	62	1	893	12	5,630	75	889	12
33	Staff team	181	3	1,333	20	4,845	72	346	5
34	Recruitment	193	3	1,102	15	5,814	78	344	5
35	Training and development	95	1	1,220	16	5,485	73	671	9
36	Supervision and support	143	2	1,148	17	5,047	76	324	5
37	Day to day operations	103	1	1,066	14	5,328	71	1,012	13
38	Ethos	93	1	430	7	4,933	80	747	12
39	Quality assurance	132	2	1,352	18	5,291	71	720	10
40	Policies and procedures	90	1	1,141	19	4,678	78	104	2
41	Record keeping	208	3	1,511	25	4,275	70	146	2
42	Safe working practices	129	2	1,428	19	5,617	75	335	4
43	Conduct of the service	171	3	917	16	4,533	79	93	2

Note:
Figures are based on the most recent score for each standard as at 31 March. The year shown is not necessarily the year of inspection - not every standard is inspected against every year and not every service is inspected annually.
Source:
CQC database

Score against NMS for care homes for older people as at 31 March 2009

		Standard not met with major shortfalls		*Standard not met with minor shortfalls*		*Standard met*		*Standard exceeded*	
NMS		*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*	*No. of services*	*% of all scores*
1	Information	161	2	1,504	15	7,621	78	444	5
2	Contract	123	1	1,099	12	7,684	85	126	1
3	Needs assessment	112	1	871	8	8,667	84	728	7
4	Meeting needs	254	3	1,059	12	7,057	81	376	4
5	Trial visits	16	0	197	2	8,272	95	250	3

Score against NMS for care homes for older people as at 31 March 2009

NMS		Standard not met with major shortfalls: No. of services	Standard not met with major shortfalls: % of all scores	Standard not met with minor shortfalls: No. of services	Standard not met with minor shortfalls: % of all scores	Standard met: No. of services	Standard met: % of all scores	Standard exceeded: No. of services	Standard exceeded: % of all scores
6	Intermediate care	77	4	160	7	1,841	84	104	5
7	Service user plan	269	3	2,990	29	6,259	60	892	9
8	Healthcare	168	2	1,338	13	7,934	76	968	9
9	Medication	397	4	2,752	26	6,973	67	286	3
10	Privacy and dignity	85	1	762	7	8,568	82	988	9
11	Dying and death	58	1	826	10	6,941	83	489	6
12	Social contact and activities	171	2	1,906	18	6,585	63	1,749	17
13	Community contact	18	0	230	2	9,150	88	1,008	10
14	Autonomy and choice	64	1	685	7	8,751	84	899	9
15	Meals and mealtimes	73	1	1,039	10	7,818	75	1,481	14
16	Complaints	92	1	754	7	9,133	88	432	4
17	Rights	40	1	280	4	7,571	95	66	1
18	Protection	199	2	1,293	12	8,629	83	286	3
19	Premises	198	2	2,117	20	6,867	66	1,227	12
20	Shared facilities	107	1	984	11	7,205	80	689	8
21	Lavatories and washing facilities	223	2	1,623	18	6,715	75	410	5
22	Adaptations and equipment	192	2	1,632	18	6,737	76	293	3
23	Space requirements	48	1	569	7	7,573	88	450	5
24	Furniture and fittings	131	1	1,461	16	6,973	76	576	6
25	Heating and lighting	301	3	1,802	20	6,527	73	291	3
26	Hygiene and infection control	147	1	1,413	14	7,918	76	926	9
27	Staff complement	208	2	1,412	14	8,228	79	558	5
28	Qualifications	102	1	1,154	11	7,660	74	1,433	14
29	Recruitment	359	3	1,779	17	7,903	76	356	3
30	Staff training	183	2	1,782	17	7,507	72	928	9
31	Day to day operations	221	2	1,521	15	7,252	70	1,403	13
32	Ethos	199	2	822	9	6,691	76	1,037	12
33	Quality assurance	243	2	1,808	17	7,375	71	965	9
34	Financial procedures	164	2	697	9	6,795	88	76	1
35	Service user money	57	1	535	5	9,442	92	214	2
36	Staff supervision	438	5	2,297	25	6,403	69	207	2
37	Record keeping	415	5	2,494	29	5,617	65	158	2
38	Safe working practices	272	3	2,214	21	7,460	72	462	4

Note:
Figures are based on the most recent score for each standard as at 31 March. The year shown is not necessarily the year of inspection - not every standard is inspected against every year and not every service is inspected annually.
Source:
CQC database

Dental Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms on NHS general dental services in York in each year since 1996-97. [295227]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Since 2006-07, data on primary dental care expenditure can be derived from primary care trust (PCT) accounts. Expenditure on primary dental care services in the North Yorkshire and York PCT in the last three years is shown in the following table. The PCT's accounts do not separately distinguish between expenditure in North Yorkshire, and York City.

Financial year	Expenditure type	Gross expenditure (£000)	Dental charges paid by patients (£000)	Net expenditure (£000)
2006-07	Actual	32,165	8,875	23,290
	At 2008-09 prices	33,906	9,355	24,551
2007-08	actual	32,089	8,879	23,210

Financial year	*Expenditure type*	*Gross expenditure (£000)*	*Dental charges paid by patients (£000)*	*Net expenditure (£000)*
	At 2008-09 prices	32,876	9,097	23,779
2008-09	Actual	39,241	10,358	28,883

Notes:

1. As the data reflect the contract framework for primary dental care services introduced from 1 April 2006, it includes all relevant service costs, and is based on the PCT areas introduced from 1 October 2006, it is not directly comparable with the available pre-2006 data.

2. Actual expenditure figures have been converted into 2008-09 prices using the gross domestic product deflator index as at 29 September 2009.

Source:

Calculated from details of gross primary dental care expenditure, and income from dental charges, recorded in the notes to the PCT's accounts.

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former general dental service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand-led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice and how much national health service work they chose to undertake.

The Information Centre for health and social care holds local-level information on the expenditure for NHS primary dental care under the former GDS and personal dental service arrangements. The Information Centre for health and social care published the following report on 26 March 2008: 'NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 1997/98 - 2005/06'. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalexpend1997to2006

The report includes information on primary dental care expenditure in cash terms by parliamentary constituency for 1997-98 to 2005-06 in Tables A3 and B3 of Annex 3. Further notes to aid interpretation of the information are shown in the 'Contents and Notes' page of Annex 3.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296087]

Phil Hope: The Department uses a number of companies for different mail delivery services.

External mail is collected and delivered by Royal Mail. This is an on-going rolling arrangement.

For urgent deliveries of documents and for deliveries between buildings alternative suppliers are used. These are:

Urgent motorcycle or van deliveries by Point to Point under contract to April 2011;

and

Inter-Office deliveries by arrangement with Government mail services operated by Government Car and Despatch Agency, a part of Department for Transport. This is subject to an annual service level agreement renewable each October.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295723]

Phil Hope: The Department's Communications Directorate 0800 helpline numbers are accredited, when it is considered appropriate, with The Helplines Association via the Central Office of Information who manage them on our behalf.

Information on any other telephone services that may be run on behalf of the Department is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

East of England Strategic Health Authority: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of running the East of England Strategic Health Authority was in each year for which figures are available. [296162]

Phil Hope: Figures published in the East of England Strategic Health Authority's (SHA's) annual reports show the following total management costs:

	£ million
2005-06	15.719
2006-07	30.577
2007-08	12.373
2008-09	13.636

It should be noted that the 2005-06 figures are the combined management costs of three distinct SHAs: (i) Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, (ii) Essex, and (iii) Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, which officially merged to form the East of England SHA in July 2006. The 2006-07 management costs reflect non-recurring costs involved in the merger of the three existing SHAs into a unitary body in July 2006.

General Practitioners: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners were providing NHS services in Leeds West constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [295345]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of general practitioners (GPs) excluding retainers and registrars for Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT) as at 30 September 2008.

	Number of GPs
Leeds PCT	518

Notes:

1. Figures are not available at constituency level. Leeds West is contained within and served by Leeds PCT.
2. Data include all GPs who were attached to an active GP Practice on 30 September 2008. The annual GP census does not contain data on NHS walk-in centres, asylum seeker and refugee health centres or homeless shelters, where GPs may also be practising on a part-time or locum basis.
3. GP Locums are not included in the data.
4. Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care—general and personal medical services statistics

Health Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there have been *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each speciality at York Hospitals NHS Trust in each year since 1996-97. [295231]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Count of finished consultant episodes there have been in total and in each main speciality at York Hospitals NHS Trust (RCB) from 1996-97 to 2007-09 activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Main speciality description	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*	*1996-97*
Total	78,310	80,936	81,586	75,531	69,699	64,015	63,032	61,827	61,758	64,367	60,536	60,404
General surgery	9,880	10,102	9,512	8,972	8,727	8,034	7,440	7,493	7,620	7,618	6,929	7,290
Urology	6,155	6,434	6,244	5,326	5,345	4,817	4,719	4,860	4,432	4,441	4,319	4,390
Trauma and Orthopaedics	4,277	4,887	5,371	5,548	5,566	5,158	4,649	4,660	4,468	4,560	4,274	4,375
Ear Nose and Throat (ENT)	2,039	2,111	2,181	2,075	2,041	2,050	2,301	2,193	2,166	2,134	1,833	2,211
Ophthalmology	3,290	3,258	3,509	3,134	2,534	2,290	2,272	2,253	2,288	2,175	1,885	1,923
Oral surgery	1,702	1,756	1,574	1,491	1,409	1,354	1,223	1,244	1,368	1,351	1,268	1,215
Restorative Dentistry	—	—	—	—	—	—	339	336	333	364	397	422
Plastic surgery	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiothoracic Surgery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—
Accident and Emergency	1,568	1,546	1,693	356	7	29	*	—	134	460	731	1,361
Anaesthetics	1,946	2,043	2,018	1,900	1,879	1,882	1,918	1,906	2,292	2,469	2,345	1,174
General Medicine	17,656	19,276	20,389	18,003	16,536	15,561	14,076	12,888	12,002	11,592	10,961	10,604
Haematology (clinical)	917	1,650	1,206	991	684	667	824	938	1,391	1,310	1,043	814
Dermatology	29	*	*	49	62	75	103	127	148	170	113	132
Genito-urinary medicine	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	*	—
Medical oncology	459	221	225	166	165	190	269	348	126	*	*	—
Neurology	409	453	468	[illegible]	670	520	510	429	397	404	409	441
Clinical Neurophysiology	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rheumatology	828	753	568	233	256	172	184	190	265	318	351	290
Paediatrics	7,075	7,080	4,835	4,898	4,651	4,124	4,158	3,908	4,168	3,741	3,321	3,291
Geriatric medicine	10,089	9,501	9,193	9,316	7,756	6,160	5,448	5,216	5,021	5,254	4,561	4,311
Obstetrics	4,265	4,055	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gynaecology	3,295	3,384	9,199	10,664	9,738	9,310	9,463	9,312	9,306	13,257	13,471	13,572
Midwife episode	1,996	1,855	2,998	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Medical Practice	—	—	—	1,687	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General practice with maternity function[1]	—	—	—	—	1,631	1,581	1,359	1,648	1,737	493	125	201
General Practice other than maternity[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	370	411	437	480	522	519

Count of finished consultant episodes there have been in total and in each main speciality at York Hospitals NHS Trust (RCB) from 1996-97 to 2007-09 activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Main speciality description	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*	*1996-97*
Mental Handicap	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	35	*	38	42	76
Mental Illness	—	—	—	—	—	—	614	686	694	904	874	993
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	50	48	42	44	53
Old Age Psychiatry	—	—	—	—	—	—	612	616	685	663	643	677
Clinical oncology (previously Radiotherapy)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radiology	—	*	*	—	*	*	—	—	*	*	—	—
Chemical Pathology	435	544	376	214	40	38	80	80	190	121	72	*
Histopathology	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—

[1] These fields were only available up to 2003-04.

Note:

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Hospitals: Food

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what surveys of patient satisfaction with hospital food the NHS has undertaken in the last 12 months; [295301]

(2) what recent progress his Department has made in improving the quality of food served in NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [295302]

Ann Keen: National health service acute trusts have undertaken the Care Quality Commission's annual in-patient survey of patients (2008), which includes questions relating to patients' rating of the food, whether they were offered a choice and whether they received help to eat meals. The most recent survey (2008 national adult inpatients survey [published May 2009]) results show a positive improvement in patient satisfaction with hospital food, i.e. a two-percentage point increase in food rated "very good", and a fall in the number who rate the food as "poor". Also, it shows a three-percentage point increase in patients stating that they always received "enough help from staff to eat meals". The Care Quality Commission's mental health acute inpatient service users' survey (2009), also asks respondents how they rate the hospital food.

The importance of good quality food for patients is recognised both in terms of improving their health and in relation to their overall experience of services.

The Better Hospital Food programme focused on ensuring the consistent delivery of high quality food and food services to patients and its key outputs include best practice guidance and detailed information to support the delivery of food in the NHS. Although the Better Hospital Food programme has now closed, the resource is still available via the Hospital Caterers' Association website:

www.hospitalcaterers.org

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA), is also working with stakeholders in the development of a toolkit to assist NHS organisations in the implementation of the "10 Key Characteristics of Good Nutritional Care". The factsheets support good nutritional care and were published by the NPSA earlier this year.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated in NHS hospitals for food on average per in-patient per day in the last 12 months. [296226]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is no national health service daily allocation as such so this information is not collected in the precise format requested. However, information provided to the Department shows that in 2008-09 the average cost of feeding one patient per day was £7.53.

This cost relates to the average daily cost for the provision of all meals and beverages fed to one patient per day, across all NHS trusts in England. The cost should include all pay and non-pay costs, including provisions, ward issues, disposables, equipment and its maintenance.

The information has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Kidney Patients: Dialysis Machines

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce a system to ensure that NHS patients requiring kidney dialysis may receive dialysis through the NHS while staying temporarily outside their primary health care area in the UK without additional charge. [295163]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework for Renal Services emphasised that for reasons such as work, education, holidays and family visits, it is important that patients can dialyse away from home. We are working with specialised renal commissioners to identify ways in which we can improve the availability of dialysis for patients away from home.

The introduction of a standard tariff for dialysis, initially on a non-mandatory basis, will help to reduce the variations in the charges for people who wish to dialyse away from home.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any NHS counselling services have been discontinued as a result of the implementation of his Department's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Programme. [296286]

Phil Hope: Primary care trust (PCT) commissioners are responsible for assessing local need and deciding the types and amounts of various national health service psychological therapy services required in their area.

However, the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme envisages a long term need for counselling services and has, therefore, not issued guidance encouraging decommissioning of counselling services or recommending that counsellors should retrain.

The funding committed for IAPT services by the Government is in addition to those counselling and talking therapy services locally funded and delivered. Some PCTs have moved to invest further in IAPT services and to use IAPT as a method of broadening the range of therapies offered to local people.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase access to NHS counselling services during the economic downturn. [296287]

Phil Hope: In March 2009 a package of measures to help people who are experiencing emotional problems linked to employment or debt issues linked to the downturn was announced by the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Specifically the aim was to help people overcome the negative psychological impact of job loss or debt, so that they can better tackle their financial issues. The package also included greater provision of talking therapies and a new network of employment support workers.

Investment of an extra £13 million has been made available to fund:

- a faster roll-out of talking therapy services around the country throughout 2009 with services beginning to be available in every area by 2010;
- employment support workers linked to every talking therapy services, providing job support for people with common mental health problems to help people back to work;
- health advisers on a dedicated NHS Direct phone line being trained to spot people who might be experiencing depression because of economic problems and refer them to help; and
- better online advice and information about the availability of services near to people's homes through NHS Choices.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timescale his Department proposes for the introduction of statutory regulation of counsellors and psychotherapists. [296288]

Ann Keen: The Health Professions Council (HPC) has recently been consulting on its proposals for the regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors. It is envisaged that the HPC will deliver its recommendations to the Government by the end of this year. Following this, the Government will consider next steps, including timescales. Full consideration will be given to the outcome of the HPC consultation in taking forward any proposals for regulation.

NHS Connecting for Health: Marketing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on (a) advertising and (b) public relations for Connecting for Health in the last five years. [295499]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Expenditure information for the last five financial years is in the following table.

£

	Public Relations	*Advertising*
2004-05	121,737	—
2005-06	1,618	—
2006-07	455,782	3,450
2007-08	1,280,796	2,450
2008-09	88,091	9,675

Note:

Accounting information does not permit differentiation of public relations and press-related expenditure. The figures cover both, and exclude VAT.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of central Government funding to primary care trusts in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England which is spent on management costs. [295306]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The management costs of Bolton Primary Care Trust (PCT), as published in its 2008-09 audited accounts, represent approximately 1.7 per cent. of its net operating costs. This excludes any management costs incurred by the providers of the health care that is commissioned by the PCT.

Bolton PCT's main provider is Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. NHS foundation trusts have independent status in the national health service and are free from the Department's powers of direction. They are not required to complete information data requests that do not fit with mandatory requirements, which includes management costs.

The management costs of the NHS organisations that report to the Department represent approximately 3 per cent. of the overall NHS expenditure.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the most recent annual benefits statement for the National Programme for IT; and for what reasons he has not yet published it. [295498]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In response to a recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee in its report on the National Programme published in January 2009, the Department has agreed to consider producing an annual report of the Programme's progress against published timetables and expenditure forecasts. Consideration is being given to publication, from 2009-10, of a single document combining the annual report with a restructured statement of the costs and benefits of the programme.

NHS: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to amend the NHS Pension scheme entitlements of NHS employees on high salaries. [295680]

Ann Keen: Pension scheme provisions are kept under review to ensure they are appropriate and sustainable at all levels.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 126-7W, on NHS procurement, if he will place in the Library a copy of the procurement capability review team's report on his Department. [295651]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The report and associated documents are entitled:

Procurement Capability Review Programme—Department of Health

Procurement Capability Review Programme Improvement Plan—Department of Health

OGC Procurement Capability Reviews Tranche Three Overview report

Copies of these have been placed in the Library.

NHS: Public Holidays

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional expenditure the NHS incurred in ensuring continuous staffing levels *(a)* over bank holidays and *(b)* over the Christmas period in the last 12 months. [296227]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Nurses: Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average starting salary of an NHS nurse was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [295229]

Ann Keen: The average estimated starting salary of an NHS nurse in cash and real terms in 1996-97 and 2008-09, the latest year for which figures are available, is shown in following the table.

	Starting salaries (£)	
Qualified nurse	*Cash*	*2008-09 prices*
1996-97	11,895	15,470
2008-09	20,225	20,225

Notes:
1. In the context of this answer the term "NHS Nurse" has been interpreted as a qualified nurse.
2. 1996-97 figures are based on the Whitley D Grade minimum starting salary. Source:
Pay circular 1997-98.
3. Figures have been expressed in 2008-09 prices using the HM Treasury gross domestic product deflator index where appropriate.
4. 2008-09 figure is the Agenda For Change band five minimum salary. This figure is available for 2009-10 (£20,710) but the deflator index is unavailable for comparison in real terms.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average pay of an NHS nurse was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [295230]

Ann Keen: The average pay of an NHS nurse in cash and real terms in 1998-99 and 2008-09 the latest year for which figures are available is in the table. No comparable figures are available prior to 1998-99 as this was the first year in which the NHS staff earnings survey was undertaken.

	Average earnings (£)	
Qualified Nurse	*Cash*	*2008-09 prices*
1998-99	19,600	25,000
2008-09	29,900	29,900

Notes:
1. In the context of this answer the term "NHS Nurse" has been interpreted as a qualified nurse.
2. 1998-99 figures—Source: NHS Earnings Survey 1998-99 (available at www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Pressreleases/DH_4005045).
3. Figures have been expressed in 2008-09 prices using the HM Treasury gross domestic product deflator index where appropriate.
4. 2008-09 figures—Source: NHS Information Centre NHS Staff Earnings January to March 2009 (available at www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-earnings/nhs-staff-earnings-january-march-2009). The figure for April to June 2009 is available (£30,900) but the deflator index is unavailable for a comparison in real terms.
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £100.

Nurses: Training

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student nurses there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency. [295655]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected in the manner requested.

In 2008-09 there were 20,664 nurse training places commissioned for the whole of England. Due to the length of nurse training and attrition rates, this does not give a true picture of the exact number of student nurses currently in training across England and represents only the number of places commissioned for one year.

It is not possible to report on the number of student nurses in the Bassetlaw constituency.

Nutrition: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request the Care Quality Commission to take account in its work of the findings of the report commissioned by the Healthcare Commission on a scoping exercise to identify priority topics for national audit on the Essence of Care, published by the Royal College of Nursing in February

2008; what the cost was of producing the report; and what steps he is taking to ensure the Care Quality Commission will incorporate the quality of nutritional care in its service reviews. [295683]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission has informed us that it has taken into account the findings of the scoping work undertaken by the Royal College of Nursing. The findings have been particularly important in considering how the Care Quality Commission will assess compliance with the new registration requirements and in the development of its reviews and studies programme.

The new registration system will mean that all providers of regulated health and adult social care services will need to register with Care Quality Commission in order to operate. Registered providers will have to comply with specific requirements for hydration and nutrition. The Care Quality Commission will be able to take appropriate action if providers are found not to be compliant. This could include undertaking inspections, issuing warning notices or suspending registration. The Care Quality Commission will issue guidance explaining how providers can meet these requirements.

The Care Quality Commission has also informed us that it will look at nutrition and hydration issues in any special reviews that it undertakes. For example, this year it is undertaking a review of health care needs in care homes and a study of stroke care pathway. The Care Quality Commission is currently considering whether it needs to undertake a special review into nutrition and hydration.

The Care Quality Commission has informed us that it is also linked in with the Royal College of Nursing on their "Nutrition now" campaign and other programmes around improving skills for workforce in this area.

The scoping exercise by the Royal College of Nursing was commissioned by the Healthcare Commission and the Care Quality Commission does not possess information on the cost of producing the report.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data the Care Quality Commission plans to use to assess adherence by *(a)* NHS trusts, *(b)* care homes and *(c)* other regulated providers to the registration requirement entitled "Making sure people get the nourishment they need". [295788]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has informed us that it is currently developing the methods it will use to implement the new system of registration for health and adult social care providers. It has recently consulted on its guidance about compliance and intends to publish it later this year. It will use information from a range of sources including the CQC's own site visits and information provided by third parties.

Office of the Health Professionals Adjudicator

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Office of the Health Professionals Adjudicator will commence operations. [295606]

Ann Keen: The current planning assumptions are that from April 2011, the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator will begin to make decisions on fitness to practise cases brought before it by the General Medical Council and subsequently on a date yet to be confirmed the General Optical Council.

Pain: Health Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on tackling chronic pain in patients in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [295671]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Patients: Public Transport

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has considered the effect on patients of *(a)* King's College hospital and *(b)* South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust of proposed reductions to rail services on the South London Line; and if he will make a statement. [295782]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not independently investigated the effect to patients of proposed reductions to rail services on the South London Line. It is the responsibility of Transport for London to ensure that its services adequately meet the needs of the local population.

Patients: Safety

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 230W, on patients: safety, how many nutrition-related adverse incidents have been recorded by the National Patient Safety Agency in each month since it was established. [295650]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 230W. Information on the number of nutrition-related adverse incidents that have been recorded by the National Patient Safety Agency in each month since it was established in 2001 can still be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Social Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 758W, on social services, whether he proposes that funding for the service will be drawn entirely from his Department's budget; what mechanisms he intends to use to ensure that joined-up services are delivered; and what changes to existing arrangements for delivery of care services he envisages. [295615]

Phil Hope: The Green Paper says that we want to build a system that is universal, fair, affordable, clear and helps people to live their lives the way they want to. We need to look at a range of different ways to bring more funding into the care and support system. Exact details of future funding arrangements will depend on which funding option is chosen as the basis of the new Care and Support system.

The Green Paper set outs three ways in which we might fund a new system:

partnership—the Government covers some care costs, more if you have a low income;

insurance—the Government covers some care costs, and helps you take out insurance for the rest, if you want it; and

comprehensive—everyone over retirement age who can afford it would pay into a state insurance scheme, so that everyone who needs care and support will receive it free. We would look at having a free care and support system for people of working age alongside this.

The Green Paper states that all the services that you need should work together. People should be able to expect that the professionals who work with them will work together, particularly when needs are assessed. The Government will tackle the obstacles to partners working together nationally so that local services are freer to make their own choices about how they can improve joined-up working. We will develop a coherent strategy centred on patients, care-users and their carers, to support local leaders to make sure that joined-up services are delivered.

Social Services: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have taken up *(a)* a direct payment and *(b)* an individual budget in each local authority area; and what targets have been set for the take up of each programme in each local authority area. [295604]

Phil Hope: Following the end of the Individual budgets pilots project in December 2007, the Department announced a programme to introduce personal budgets which comprise social care funding only. As part of the Welfare Reform Bill, the 'Right to Control' work is building on the learning from the individual budget pilots to take forward the principles of choice and self-directed support through a range of income streams.

Information on what targets have been set for the take up of direct payments and individual budgets by each local authority is not collected centrally. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Suffolk Primary Care Trust: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by Suffolk Primary Care Trust on salaries and wages for *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff in each year since its creation. [296169]

Phil Hope: The following table shows data for 2002-03 to 2008-09, which are the only years for which this information is available by individual organisation. Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) was reconfigured as part of the national restructuring process in October 2006. For 2005-06 and previous financial years, the figures in the table represent the sum of the relevant figures across the four predecessor PCTs—Suffolk Coastal PCT, Ipswich PCT, Central Suffolk PCT and Suffolk West PCT.

The figures provided are for total expenditure on staff and include social security costs, pension contributions and early retirement costs. It is not possible separately to identify salaries and wages. Redundancy costs are not included.

The figures for 'Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Staff' and 'Admin and Clerical Staff' include non-NHS staff, e.g. staff employed via an employment agency.

Information is from the financial returns for NHS bodies. The data are not audited but are validated to the audited summarisation schedules.

Suffolk Primary Care Trust 2002-03 to 2008-09

£000

	Managers and senior managers	*Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Admin and clerical*
2008-09	8,014	23,961	6,406
2007-08	7,661	22,434	5,500
2006-07	5,421	23,200	5,288
2005-06	5,461	23,461	5,782
2004-05	5,618	19,860	5,213
2003-04	3,880	16,915	3,878
2002-03	2,425	15,159	3,202

Source:
Financial Returns 2002-03 to 2008-09

Swine Flu: Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners have been diagnosed with swine influenza. [296174]

Phil Hope: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) receives from each prison in England and Wales a weekly report on the number of swine flu cases. To date there have been 130 cases confirmed by laboratory analysis since 13 July when data collection began.

The data shows that NOMS' strategy for managing swine flu in prisons has been effective in preventing the spread of swine flu among prisoners.

These data have been drawn from administrative information technology systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing returns the detail is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of likely take-up rates of swine influenza vaccine *(a)* amongst different age groups, *(b)* amongst people with different vulnerabilities to the illness and *(c)* by geographic area. [294358]

Gillian Merron: The Department has estimated a national uptake rate of 70 per cent. for all the priority at-risk groups, based on the uptake rate of 74 per cent. for seasonal flu vaccine among the over 65s. Based on previous data on seasonal influenza vaccine uptake, there is little reason to believe that there will be significant regional variation in this estimated uptake rate.

This estimate is for planning purposes only and is not a target. We recommend that all people in the priority groups receive the vaccine.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of each swine influenza vaccination. [295884]

Gillian Merron: The swine flu vaccination programme will be administered by general practitioners (GPs) following successful negotiations between the Department, General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association and NHS Employers.

The deal will mean that GP surgeries will receive £5.25 per dose of vaccine given. This £5.25 payment will pay for the extra staff and non-staff resources that practices will need to vaccinate their at-risk patients. At the same time it will ensure other services provided by the practices do not suffer while practices are vaccinating large numbers of patients. The £5.25 does not include the cost of the vaccine itself. The price we pay for the vaccine is commercially confidential information.

Thalidomide

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has funded research into the potential effectiveness of the use of Thalidomide in the treatment of certain illnesses. [295438]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am told that the Department has not funded research into the effectiveness of thalidomide in the treatment of illnesses.

Thalidomide was licensed in June 2008 for the treatment of multiple myeloma or for those ineligible for high dose chemotherapy. Thalidomide UK and other stakeholders both here and in Europe were consulted throughout the licensing process and I understand that they have acknowledged the benefits of thalidomide for the treatment of multiple myeloma.

West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by *(a)* West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust and *(b)* Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust on salaries and wages for (i) general and senior managers, (ii) nurses and midwives and (iii) administrative and clerical staff in each year since 1999. [296170]

Phil Hope: The following tables show data for 2002-03 to 2008-09, which are the only years for which this information is available by individual organis[illegible]

The figures provided are for total expenditure on staff and include social security costs, pension contributions and early retirement costs. It is not possible separately to identify salaries and wages. Redundancy costs are not included.

The figures for "Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Staff" and "Admin and Clerical Staff" include non-national health service staff—e.g. staff employed via an employment agency.

Information is from the financial returns for NHS bodies. The data are not audited but is validated to the audited summarisation schedules.

West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust 2002-03 to 2008-09

£000

	Managers and senior managers	*Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Admin and clerical*
2008-09	2,415	22,735	5,328
2007-08	2,839	25,783	6,077
2006-07	3,730	29,346	6,884
2005-06	3,758	28,731	6,916
2004-05	476	28,765	10,772
2003-04	720	30,279	11,542
2002-03	709	32,963	13,433

Source:
Financial returns 2002-03 to 2008-09

Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust 2003-04 to 2008-09

£000

	Managers and senior managers	*Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Admin and clerical*
2008-09	3,758	26,842	8,002
2007-08	4,462	29,826	9,031
2006-07	4,750	34,506	10,568
2005-06	5,786	34,980	11,431
2004-05	5,906	34,425	11,338
2003-04	4,264	35,656	14,361
2002-03	4,477	38,278	15,343

Source:
Financial Returns 2002-03 to 2008-09

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations: Energy

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to amend building regulations to encourage a reduction in energy consumption through heating and lighting controls. [293822]

Mr. Ian Austin: Part L of the Building Regulations, 'Conservation of fuel and power', sets minimum energy efficiency standards for buildings and fixed building services, including heating and lighting controls. My Department has recently consulted on proposed amendments to Part L that would strengthen these standards and that are planned to come into effect in October 2010 (see

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/partlf2010consultation)

Buildings: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance his Department has issued to local planning authorities in relation to the provisions of *(a)* building controls and *(b)* planning regulations in respect of the minimum number of (i) male and (ii) female lavatories to be provided in new premises with a use class of (A) A1, (B) A3, (C) A4, (D) C1, (E) D2 and (F) sui generis; [292693]

(2) pursuant to the answer to Baroness Greengross of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, columns 305-6WA, on building regulations, what minimum levels of provision of *(a)* male and *(b)* female toilets are required in (i) new licensed premises and (ii) other new non-domestic premises. [293230]

Mr. Ian Austin: No guidance regarding the number of lavatories to be provided in new buildings has been issued specifically to local planning authorities and planning regulations do not cover this area. However, current Building Regulations, in Part G (Hygiene), require that "adequate sanitary conveniences" are provided in new buildings. The accompanying guidance contained in Approved Document G draws attention to the fact that the number of appliances may be subject to other legislation, for example, on workplaces, but that British Standard 6465, Part 1: 1984 also provides a basis for showing compliance with the requirement.

Changes to Part G of the Building Regulations will come into force on 6 April 2010 and draft guidance has been issued. The revised guidance, in reference to buildings other than dwellings, states that the minimum number of sanitary conveniences for staff in workplaces, including separate provision for men and women, should be in accord with the Approved Code of Practice that supports the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992. The Approved Document also refers to the alternative guidance set out in BS 6465:2006 for those building types not covered by the Approved Code of Practice or in workplaces where the applicant wishes to provide more than that minimum level.

Our Strategic Guide on "Improving Public Access to Better Quality Toilets" (March 2008) provided general guidance to local authorities for managing and improving public toilets. Local authorities have powers under Section 20 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require toilets to be provided and maintained for public use in any place providing entertainment, exhibitions or sporting events, and places serving food and drink for consumption on the premises, but it is for each authority to determine how these powers should be applied according to the circumstances of each case.

Central Manchester Development Corporation: Archives

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to answer to the hon. Member for Vauxhall of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 809W, on the Central Manchester Development Corporation: archives, who authorised the secure disposal of the records of the Central Manchester Development Corporation; and whether any consideration was given to donating the records to *(a)* the municipal records office, *(b)* the National Archives or *(c)* an educational institution. [294532]

Barbara Follett: Further to the answer given on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 809W, the Government Office for the North West records about the Central Manchester Development Corporation were destroyed in accordance with the disposal agreement approved by the departmental records officer. These records were not considered appropriate for transfer to the National Archives or presentation to another place of deposit under the terms of the Public Records Act 1958.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to answer to the hon. Member for Vauxhall of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 809W, on the Central Manchester Development Corporation: archives, what his Department's policy is on the disposal of *(a)* records and *(b)* other archived material of each development corporation. [294533]

Barbara Follett: The Department's policy for the management of all public records follows the responsibilities set out in the Public Records Act 1958 and subsequent guidance and advice from the National Archives. As non departmental public bodies development corporations have responsibility for their own records management policy.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Vauxhall of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 809W, on the Central Manchester Development Corporation: archives, what arrangements there are for archiving historic records of the *(a)* London Thames Gateway, *(b)* Thurrock Thames Gateway and *(c)* West Northamptonshire Development Corporation; and what disposal authorities are in place for the records of each body. [294534]

Barbara Follett: The Development Corporations will have arrangements for the records they hold. All records in the Department, including those relating to the London Thames Gateway, Thurrock Thames Gateway and the West Northamptonshire Development Corporations, are managed in accordance with existing policies and procedures.

There are appropriate arrangements in place for retention and disposal.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the likely effect of the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy on *(a)* the cumulative burden of regulation on developers and *(b)* the quantity and quality of new development. [294524]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government have made an assessment of the impact of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) upon landowners and developers, in preparing its impact assessments on CIL, which have accompanied the different legislative stages of the passage of the Planning Act 2008 and the ongoing development of CIL regulations.

The most recent assessment was published on 30 July and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/infrastructurelevypartial.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the revenue generated by the Community Infrastructure Levy in each of the first three years of its operation; and whether such revenue will be classified as tax revenue for the purposes of the National Accounting rules. [294526]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government published their estimates of anticipated revenues from CIL, within the impact assessments that have accompanied the different legislative stages of the Planning Act 2008 and the ongoing development of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations. The latest assessment was published on 30 July to accompany the publication of the draft CIL regulations. The assessment is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/infrastructurelevypartial.

Once the Government's proposals for CIL have been finalised the Office for National Statistics will classify the levy for National Accounts purposes.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether new *(a)* nuclear power stations and *(b)* wind turbines are liable for community infrastructure levy. [294661]

Mr. Ian Austin: The draft community infrastructure levy (CIL) regulations, published on 30 July 2009 and available on the CLG website, propose (at Regulation 5(3)) that CIL should not be levied on buildings into which people do not normally go; or on buildings into which people go only intermittently for the purpose of inspecting or maintaining fixed plant or machinery.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/communitylevyconsultation

Council Housing: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants there were in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* the East of England in each year since 1997. [295368]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 310W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn).

Council Housing: Lone Parents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional funding his Department plans to provide to implement the policy of placing teenage single mothers in supervised residential accommodation; how many places will be provided each year; what role local authorities will play in the scheme; and what the timetable is for its implementation. [292998]

Mr. Ian Austin: My Department has provided £30 million capital funding over three years (2009-10; 2010-11; 2011-12) to provide new places in Foyers and other specialist supported accommodation through the National Affordable Housing Programme. Housing Associations and other affordable housing providers will be invited to bid in a process to be administered by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the E-BAR/Valuebill interface for council tax reports established by the Valuation Office Agency includes the transfer of personal data. [293371]

Barbara Follett: A Billing Authority (BA) council tax report can contain contact details including name, address (if different from the property address), telephone number and email address. The electronic BA reports data transfer takes place through a secure password restricted website with 128 bit encryption.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* the Valuation Tribunal Service takes of increased levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in a specific locality when assessing material changes for the purpose of council tax revaluations. [294801]

Barbara Follett: There is no council tax revaluation taking place. However, in the event of any future revaluation, the banding of properties by the Valuation Office Agency would be based on the open market value as it was on the relevant date. The Valuation Tribunal Service would have no direct role in compiling lists in any such future revaluation.

Departmental Billing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 17 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, for what reasons 13 per cent. of invoices submitted to his Department were not paid on time. [294664]

Barbara Follett: Until July 2008, the Department operated a decentralised payment processing model, with business areas processing supplier invoices independently of each other and the "centre". This arrangement was inherently inefficient, allowing delays and errors in the processing of payments, which in turn contributed to a low performance against Whitehall prompt payment targets.

In July 2008 the Department introduced centralised processing of invoices, resulting in a more effective and efficient means of handling, authorising and paying supplier accounts rendered. This change in approach had an immediate positive impact on performance, which improved steadily through the reporting year. Clearance of an inherited backlog of unpaid invoices had an impact on payment performance. The introduction across Whitehall of a 10 day prompt payment policy in December 2008 provided a further impetus for improvement, and processes were further automated and streamlined to meet the new challenges.

In the current financial year these process enhancements have continued and the further exploitation of technology continues to generate improvements against the Whitehall 10 day prompt payment target, raising current performance to above 90 per cent. of valid invoices being paid within 10 days of receipt. The comparable figure for the resource account in the current financial year is above 95 per cent.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 30 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, for what reason the sensitive documents on housing were carried on a flight from Heathrow to Copenhagen. [294656]

Barbara Follett: The documents were carried by an official whilst on an authorised business trip in order to make productive use of the time spent travelling.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 76 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, whether the stolen unencrypted laptop was stolen from the premises of the Government Office for the North West. [294659]

Barbara Follett: There is a reference on page 29 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's Resource Accounts that identifies an unencrypted laptop was stolen from the premises of the Government Office for the North West.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons policy advisers are recruited on terms and conditions different from those of other civil servants. [294596]

Barbara Follett: Policy advisers are civil servants and as such are recruited under the same terms and conditions. These can include fixed term appointments where appropriate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what analysis of his Department's expenditure by local authority area has been undertaken in the last 12 months. [295697]

Barbara Follett: No analysis of the Department's expenditure by local authority area has been undertaken in the last 12 months.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to the application of the precautionary principle in relation to the development of public policy. [294521]

Barbara Follett: People's perceptions of public risk often differ from actual levels of risk. These distorted public perceptions may encourage poor policy-making and unnecessary laws, leading people to feel that Government is interfering too much in their lives. Strong leadership from the Government is necessary to counter these trends and to help foster a more considered approach to risk and public policy making. In handling public risk, Communities and Local Government follows the guidance of the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council by placing emphasis on understanding the risk in context, actively engaging with a broad community, and effective communication.

Departmental Staffing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what expenditure was incurred on recruitment agency fees in respect of staff recruited to work in *(a)* his Department's Housing Directorate, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(d)* the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit, *(e)* Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and *(f)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy in the last five years; [294913]

(2) how much was paid in external consultancy fees by *(a)* his Department's Housing Directorate, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(d)* the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit, *(e)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(f)* the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment in each of the last five years; [294914]

(3) how much was paid in staff costs by *(a)* his Department's Housing Directorate, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(d)* the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and *(e)* the Homes and Communities Agency academy in each of the last five years. [295086]

John Healey: The following tables provide the financial data requested subject to the following caveat:

Where a cell is blank, no expenditure in the categories specified was incurred;

The "Housing Directorates" lines cover a combination of directorates across the years in question as a result of CLG organisational structure changes.

Table A: PQ 5490—recruitment agency fees

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Housing Directorates[1]	—	—	—	—	63,100
Tenants' Services Authority	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30,300
Homes & Community Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	152,200
Homes & Community Agency Academy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30,000
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit[2]	—	—	91,300	—	—
CABE	62,000	25,300	72,100	85,100	46,900

[1] Relates to the recruitment of HCA Board members.

[2] Relates to the recruitment of NHPAU Board members.

Table B: PQ 5491—external consultancy

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Housing Directorate[1]	863,800	903,800	462,700	337,700	3,886,300
Tenants' Services Authority	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,486,400
Homes & Community Agency[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[2]—
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit	—	—	3,200	6,600	10,600
CABE	536,500	818,800	463,900	619,800	612,600
Homes & Community Agency Academy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,056,000

[1] Expenditure inflated by one-off items: HCA set-up and homeowner mortgage support scheme.

[2] The HCA can be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Table C: PQ 5493—staff costs

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Housing Directorate	9,837,300	10,330,400	10,842,500	10,649,500	10,644,200
Tenants' Services Authority[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—
Homes & Community Agency[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—
Homes & Community Agency Academy[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit	—	—	68,500	579,000	606,000

[1] For HCA and TSA 2008-09, information on expenditure on staff will be included in the annual reports and accounts which will be published shortly. Prior to 2008-09, neither organisation was in existence.

English Partnership Public Relations Panel

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what companies and individuals were on the English Partnership Public Relations Panel in each year since the Panel was set up; and what expenditure has been incurred on each *(a)* corporate and *(b)* individual member of the Panel to date. [illegible]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since 1 December 2008, English Partnership's (EP) functions have passed to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The following table provides a list of the organisations that have formed the membership of the EP/HCA Public Relations Panel since it was established in 2006, and also the net and gross breakdown of expenditure, by panel member.

Public relations spend across the HCA incorporates a wide and varied range of activities, with a particular focus on disseminating news and information on HCA's work to business and local stakeholders, the media and to the general public.

For 2008-09, such costs represented 0.02 per cent. of the HCA's total annual expenditure of £3.9 billion.

Summary of net and gross spend by former EP and now HCA against each supplier on the PR Panel by financial year (2009 split into EP and HCA spend)

		EP				HCA		
Supplier name		Jan 2006-Mar 2006	Apr 2006-Mar 2007	Apr 2007-Mar 2008	Apr 2008-Nov 2008	Dec 2008-Mar 2009	Apr 2009 to date	Grand total
Brahm Limited	Net	—	—	14,755	31,230	9,325	68,306	123,616
	Gross	—	—	17,337	36,695	10,724	71,241	135,998
Camargue	Net	18,001	61,095	35,867	6,781	2,255	3,000	126,999
	Gross	21,151	71,787	42,144	7,968	2,613	3,450	149,112
Communications Management	Net	—	124,883	85,628	3,135	—	—	213,646
	Gross	—	146,737	100,613	3,684	—	—	251,034
Communique	Net	—	52,891	123,348	28,334	5,702	5,808	216,083
	Gross	—	62,149	144,933	32,774	6,587	6,679	253,122
Creative Concern Ltd	Net	—	2,487	—	—	17,170	33,284	52,941
	Gross	—	2,922	—	—	17,170	33,284	53,376
Destination Marketing UK Ltd	Net	—	73,102	109,300	34,313	14,892	469	232,076
	Gross	—	85,864	128,427	40,318	17,298	539	272,446

Summary of net and gross spend by former EP and now HCA against each supplier on the PR Panel by financial year (2009 split into EP and HCA spend)

		EP				*HCA*		
Supplier name		*Jan 2006-Mar 2006*	*Apr 2006-Mar 2007*	*Apr 2007-Mar 2008*	*Apr 2008-Nov 2008*	*Dec 2008-Mar 2009*	*Apr 2009 to date*	*Grand total*
Fleishman-Hillard Group Ltd	Net	—	—	—	3,500	—	—	3,500
	Gross	—	—	—	4,113	—	—	4,113
ING Media	Net	—	33,000	150,131	133,508	59,796	23,716	400,151
	Gross	—	38,775	176,404	156,872	68,771	27,273	468,095
Phoenix	Net	—	29,668	61,240	53,068	24,447	22,146	190,568
	Gross	—	34,860	71,957	62,354	28,320	25,468	222,959
Staniforth Communications	Net	3,369	92,454	93,695	26,287	13,443	16,981	246,229
	Gross	3,959	108,633	110,092	30,887	15,497	19,528	288,596
Staniforth Public Relations	Net	16,178	—	926	2,256	—	—	19,361
	Gross	19,010	—	1,088	2,651	—	—	22,749
The Communication Group plc	Net	—	3,266	152,894	—	—	—	156,160
	Gross	—	3,838	179,650	—	—	—	183,488
Willoughby PR	Net	10,469	34,399	49,518	33,942	34,752	77,996	241,077
	Gross	12,301	40,418	58,184	39,882	40,003	89,696	280,484

Environmental Health: Manpower

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many environmental health officers have been recruited to work in Leeds in each year since 2001. [295362]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held by my Department.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 201-202W, on home information packs, what the evidential basis was of the value for money assessment undertaken in respect of the contracting out of public relations work in relation to home information packs. [295862]

Barbara Follett: Agencies on the Central Office of Information public relations framework participate in an open tender process conducted by COI officials to select those agencies best able to provide value for money to the public purse. More information about COI procurement policy is available here:

http://www.coi.gov.uk/suppliers.php?page=63

In relation to Home Information Packs, the Department ensured value for money by using an agency from this framework.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on *(a)* consultancy fees, *(b)* recruitment agencies and *(c)* staff costs by each of the regional offices of the (i) Homes and Communities Agency and (ii) Tenant Services Authority since December 2008. [295095]

John Healey: The amount spent since December 2008:

(a) on consultancy fees

(i) by the Homes and Communities Agency would be available only at disproportionate cost;

(ii) by the Tenant Services Authority was £1,486,400. It is not possible to disaggregate these costs by region.

(b) on recruitment agencies

(i) by the Homes and Communities Agency's regions (not including corporate staff) was as follows:

	Spend (£)
London	4,400
South East (inc. Milton Keynes Partnership)	12,900
North West	7,000
West Midlands	2,900
Other regions' spend	0

(ii) by the Tenant Services Authority was £30,300. It is not possible to disaggregate these costs by region.

(c) Information on expenditure on staff will be included in the annual reports and accounts of both the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services

Authority 2008-09, which will be published shortly. Both agencies will publish further detail on staff costs in due course.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on corporate branding by the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority since its establishment. [295097]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1501-2W. There has been no further spend on branding.

Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 814W, on housing, for what reasons the letter for local newspapers was distributed via the Central Office of Information; what the cost to the public purse was of its distribution; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter. [295856]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government has a retainer contract with the Central Office of Information to support the work of CLG press office in communicating and explaining the Department's policies through local and regional media channels. One way in which COI's network of regional News and PR teams supports this objective, under the terms of the contract, is to use its knowledge of and contacts with local newspapers to help place and tailor ministerial articles on issues relevant to their readerships.

The distribution of the article that is the subject of this and previous related questions tabled by the hon. Member was undertaken as part of this retainer arrangement.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such properties have been classified as affordable housing. [294603]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 969W for figures showing new affordable homes built as a proportion of all homes built, by county.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* the East of England since 1997. [295367]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on new affordable homes built is not available by constituency.

The following table shows the number of new affordable homes (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) built in mid Bedfordshire local authority, Bedfordshire, the East of England Region, and England in each year since 1997-98.

	Mid Bedfordshire	*Bedfordshire*	*East of England GOR*	*England*
1997-98	210	410	2,840	28,210
1998-99	150	480	2,980	26,550
1999-2000	40	330	2,020	22,360
2000-01	60	190	2,250	20,940
2001-02	50	220	2,360	21,740
2002-03	70	230	2,460	21,100
2003-04	110	250	2,760	23,890
2004-05	80	430	3,140	26,930
2005-06	60	300	4,160	33,260
2006-07	70	220	5,020	36,260
2007-08	80	440	6,260	43,560

Note:
Figures are estimates, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 90 additional affordable homes were provided in mid Bedfordshire local authority (new build and acquisitions), 530 in Bedfordshire, 7,200 in the East of England Region, and 53,730 additional affordable homes were provided in England (new build and acquisitions).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons the Homes and Communities Agency has revised downwards its targets for rural affordable house building; [296159]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Commission for Rural Communities on the decision by the Homes and Communities Agency to reduce its target for rural affordable housing. [296160]

John Healey: Market conditions have made delivery of affordable housing much more challenging. The HCA's Corporate Plan (published at the end of September) announced their rural target is 8,500, in line with the reduction in their overall affordable housing targets in response to current market conditions. My officials have met with the Commission for Rural Communities to discuss these and other matters.

Housing: Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many accredited energy assessors there are in each region. [292465]

John Healey: The total number of accredited energy assessors recorded, in the National Energy Performance Certificate Register, for each region up to and including 10 October 2009 is as follows:

	Number
Registered non-domestic assessors by GOR 9 October 2009	
Unmatched	176
North West euro region (all areas)	474
Scotland euro region (all areas)	52

	Number
South West euro region (all areas)	304
Eastern euro region (all areas)	222
London euro region (all areas)	373
East Midlands euro region (all areas)	216
West Midlands euro region (all areas)	546
North East euro region (all areas)	112
Wales euro region (all areas)	152
South East euro region (all areas)	608
Yorkshire and the Humber euro region (all areas)	381
Total	3,616
Registered domestic assessors by GOR 9 October 2009	
Unmatched	421
North West euro region (all areas)	1456
Scotland euro region (all areas)	238
South West euro region (all areas)	1098
Eastern euro region (all areas)	979
London euro region (all areas)	1,118
East Midlands euro region (all areas)	733
West Midlands euro region (all areas)	2,380
North East euro region (all areas)	487
Wales euro region (all areas)	663
South East euro region (all areas)	1648
Yorkshire and the Humber euro region (all areas)	867
Total	12,008
Grand total	15,624

Note:
Unmatched totals are where the assessor postcode could not be matched to a Government Office Region (GOR) using data mapping

Housing: Floods

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has evaluated on the effect of the height of electricity sockets in walls on the length of time it takes householders to return to their repaired homes following evacuation after flooding; and what guidelines are provided to builders of new homes in flood-risk areas on the matter. [293620]

Mr. Ian Austin: We are not aware of research that looks at how the height of electricity sockets specifically impacts on the time it has taken to repair flooded homes. However, Communities and Local Government published joint guidance with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency entitled Improving the flood performance of new buildings—Flood resilient construction in May 2007. The document provides guidance to developers and designers on how to improve the flood resilience of new properties in low or residual flood risk areas by the use of suitable materials and construction details. To help achieve resilient design it suggests that, for ground floors, electrical sockets should be installed above flood level to minimise damage to electrical services.

Housing: Lighting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has issued recent guidance to local trading standards authorities on prosecutions for the sale of imported incandescent light bulbs. [294627]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

Following a public consultation which closed on 4 September 2009, the National Measurement Office has taken on the role of enforcing the requirements on products, including lamps, set out in EU Regulations under the Eco-design of Energy-using Products Directive. It will also ensure labels on products required by the Energy Labelling Directive are accurate.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of building a new unit of *(a)* social housing and *(b)* affordable housing. [294902]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 817-818W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central Government expenditure there has been on the Social Homebuy scheme. [295663]

John Healey: Social HomeBuy is a voluntary demand-led shared ownership scheme for social tenants. Registered social landlords who choose to offer the scheme to their tenants bid to the Homes and Communities Agency for grant to cover the discount offered to the tenant under the scheme. From April 2006 to end of September 2009, spend for this purpose through the National Affordable Housing programme totalled £3.6 million.

No funding has been provided to local authorities offering the scheme other than £132,770 given to help early pilots with development and set up costs in 2006-07.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of homes in each region met the Decent Homes standard in each of the last five years. [294951]

Mr. Ian Austin: The English House Condition Survey reports nationally on the percentage of decent homes. However the size of the sample size limits the extent to which it can provide robust results for each year at lower levels of geography.

The survey can provide estimates at broad regional groupings (Northern includes North West, North East and Yorkshire; South East includes South East and London and the rest of country includes Eastern, East

Midlands, West Midlands and South West) which are provide in table, but not for each region in England due to sample size.

Percentage of homes meeting the decent homes standard in the last five years (2003-07)

	Original definition				Updated definition	
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2006*	*2007*
Northern regions	68.7	70.2	72.7	73.9	64.3	64.3
South East regions	68.0	69.3	70.7	71.9	66.2	66.1
Rest of England	69.3	72.4	73.7	73.7	64.5	65.5
All dwellings	68.7	70.8	72.5	73.2	65.0	65.4

Note:

Base: all tenures

The Decent Homes standard was updated in 2006 when the introduction of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System replaced the Fitness Standard (original definition) as the statutory tool for assessing housing conditions. Figures based on the updated definition from 2006 are not comparable with those based on the original definition.

Institute for Public Policy Research and New Local Government Network

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments his Department made to the *(a)* Institute for Public Policy Research and *(b)* New Local Government Network in the last three years; what the purpose of such payment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [294462]

Barbara Follett: No payments have been made to the *(a)* Institute for Public Policy Research. Payments have been made to the *(b)* New Local Government Network in connection with a secondment to the Department in the annual pay range of £43,836 to £57,110.

INTERREG Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects in the UK have received funding under the Interreg *(a)* IVA and *(b)* IVB programme. [293107]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally by the Department and it could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Land: Databases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provisions regulate the sharing of data in the joint Ordnance Survey-Land Registry data centre; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the shared service agreement. [294891]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Data Centre Shared Service agreement which Ordnance Survey and Land Registry have recently concluded is concerned only with buildings, information technology infrastructure and with associated security and business continuity provisions. It is not concerned with data or the sharing of data.

Under the agreement Ordnance Survey has signed a five-year lease for 219 square metres of serviced and managed space from Land Registry, within its secure data centre in Gloucester. This dedicated and discrete accommodation will house a proportion of Ordnance Survey's IT infrastructure, as well as supporting the launch of a new database management system. It will enable essential IT Business continuity services, in conjunction with facilities at Ordnance Survey's new head office, which is currently being built in Southampton.

A copy of the Shared Service Agreement has today been placed in the Library.

Local Government Information Unit

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 247W, on the Local Government Information Unit, (1) which official was seconded by the Local Government Information Unit to the office of the then Secretary of State; for what reason that secondment was terminated; and when that secondment *(a)* began and *(b)* ended; [292993]

(2) for what reasons the Local Government Information Unit incurred legal costs in relation to the termination of a secondment to the office of the then Secretary of State; for what reasons his Department paid those costs; and whether compensation payments were made to any individual in relation to the termination of the secondment. [292994]

Barbara Follett: Edward Cox from the Local Government Information Unit was seconded to the Strategy and Performance Directorate within Communities and Local Government (and not to the office of the then Secretary of State) for one year, from 7 January 2008 to 6 January 2009. The secondment ended early as, following discussions with the Department and the LGiU about the possibility of extending the secondment, Mr. Cox opted to leave the LGiU and to join the Department on a fixed-term contract, which began on 1 January 2009.

The legal costs incurred by the LGiU relate to legal advice they obtained in the course of the discussions about the possibility of extending the secondment about the different options which might be pursued. The Department had previously agreed to reimburse all reasonable costs incurred by the LGiU in connection with administration of the secondment, and in line with that agreed to reimburse these specific costs. No compensation payments were made to any individual in relation to the termination of the secondment.

Local Government: Bank Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of money deposited with Icelandic banks by local authorities which has not yet been recovered. [296284]

Barbara Follett: CLG has not made any such estimates. The Resolution Committee for Landsbanki and Glitnir and the UK administrators of Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedland Ltd., have published information on likely rates of return.

Local Government: Equality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 659W, on equality: regulation, what additional funding has been given to local authorities under the new burdens doctrine in relation to equality and diversity. [295896]

Barbara Follett: The Government are committed to ensuring that all new burdens falling on local authorities, whether from equality and diversity policies or any other, are fully and properly funded so that there is no upward pressure on council tax bills. Where appropriate, funding is provided through the formula grant system or through specific grants.

Local Government: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average salary of the highest earning 10 per cent. of local government employees is; and how many employees he estimates have received salaries in this category in each of the last five years. [295675]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local Government: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median and *(c)* mean per decile annual pension was of local government pension scheme members claiming a pension for the first time in each of the last five years. [295674]

Barbara Follett: This information is not collected centrally.

Maps: EU Law

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the conclusions of his Department's consultation on the transposition of the EU INSPIRE directive. [294622]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

The report on consultation was published on the Department's website in July:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/inspire/summary-responses.pdf

in line with my Department's normal practice. I am arranging for copies of it to be placed also in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce his decision on whether to build a national geo-portal as part of the implementation of the INSPIRE directive. [294651]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) replied to the hon. Member on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1281W explaining that decisions on the implementation of INSPIRE will be taken by the location council. At its meeting on 18 September the location council endorsed the Conceptual Design for the Location Programme, including the development of a UK Geo-Portal. The decision will be communicated on the programme website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/location

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to provide mortgage help to those who are eligible for shared ownership housing but who cannot find appropriate funding. [296161]

John Healey: There are 18 lenders who currently offer mortgages to shared ownership purchasers. The Government have provided help to potential shared ownership purchasers by introducing Rent to HomeBuy. This enables potential purchasers to benefit from an affordable rent for up to five years, enabling them to save for a deposit to purchase a share during or at the end of that period.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, (1) on what date the Building Research Establishment submitted to his Department the second stage of its review of the licensing regime for houses in multiple occupation; [294946]

(2) on what date the Building Research Establishment was commissioned to conduct the review of the effectiveness of the new licensing regime for houses in multiple occupation; [294947]

(3) when he expects to publish the review commissioned by his Department from the Building Research Establishment on the new licensing regime for houses in multiple occupation; [294948]

(4) how much his Department has paid to the Building Research Establishment for the research commissioned on the effects of the new licensing regime for houses in multiple occupation. [294949]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Building Research Establishment (BRE) was commissioned to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the new licensing regime for houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in March 2008 and the final Report was received in April 2009. We propose to publish the Report shortly. The BRE were paid £89,591.59.

National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills: Thurrock

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills during the summer adjournment on funding provision for the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in Thurrock; and if he will make a statement. [295801]

Mr. Malik: I have raised this issue with the further education Minister, my hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, West (Kevin Brennan), over the recess and we are hopeful that following approval by the LSC Regional Committee on 14 October and due assessment by the LSC's national Capital Committee on 2 November, if successful, the National Skills Academy will proceed to implementation.

Furthermore, CLG officials have been in discussion with BIS and LSC throughout the recess to progress the National Skills Academy in Thurrock which will be a key strand of the Government's wider investment in the £60 million Royal Opera House Production Park, developing technical skills in the performing arts in the run up to the 2012 Olympics.

Non-Domestic Rates: Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether hereditaments which are levied on a workplace parking levy will receive any reduction in the rateable value calculated for their business parking spaces for business rates purposes. [293418]

Barbara Follett: Rating is a tax on the rental value of non-domestic properties. If the imposition of a workplace parking levy in a town causes the rental values of affected hereditaments to fall then it is likely rateable values will be reduced by a similar amount.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2219W, on non-domestic rates: ports, how many of the 154 settled appeals resulted in a lower rateable value; and how many and what proportion of the other outstanding appeals have been settled. [295813]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Of the 154 appeals settled at 9 September 2009, 48 were settled by agreement resulting in a lower rateable value.

As at 21 October 2009; the Valuation Office Agency has settled 417, or 56 per cent. of appeals against rating assessments subject to the fast track arrangements.

Non-Domestic Rates: Religious Buildings

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W, on non-domestic rates: religious buildings, for which faith communities and religions the Valuation Office Agency has determined that their premises, where used for public religious worship, may be eligible for exemption from non-domestic rating. [295853]

Barbara Follett: Places of Public Religious Worship which belong to the Church of England and Church in Wales and all other religions certified under the Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 where there is an open invitation to the public to attend services are exempt from NNDR under the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The exemption does not extend to organisations which practice a philosophy or where the invitation and access is restricted to certain members of the congregation.

Parking: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on influencing levels of *(a)* car ownership and *(b)* car use through the planning system. [294879]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning policy influences car ownership by requiring maximum car parking standards to be applied to both residential and commercial developments, as described in Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (PPG 13).

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2070W, on planning permission: parking, whether following the revision of Planning Policy Statement 3 the maximum parking standards for residential parking introduced in Planning Policy Guidance 13 are *(a)* guidelines for or *(b)* binding on local authorities. [295850]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1136-37W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2070W, on planning permission: parking, what maximum parking standards for residential parking are in place in each of the regional spatial strategies. [295851]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) asks Local planning authorities to develop residential parking policies for their area. pps3 does not require regional spatial strategies to set residential parking policies for their area and there are no maximum standards in place in regional spatial strategies other then in London. In London, maximum parking standards for residential parking are in place as follows:

Predominant housing type bed units	*Car parking provision*
4+1 bed units	2-1.5 spaces per unit
3 bed units	1.5-1 space per unit space
1-2 bed units	1 to less than 1 per unit per unit space per unit

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293482]

Barbara Follett: Representatives from the Community Development Foundation and the Standards Board for England sought, and were granted, permission to attend the main political party conferences. Given its particular status and remit, representatives from the Audit Commission attended all three main political party conferences with the permission from my Department. A representative from the Tenant Services Authority attended all three major political party conferences. The Homes and Communities Agency sent no staff representatives to any political party conferences but a member of its Board attended two party conferences in her capacity as Rural Housing Advisory Group chair.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) in respect of which local plans in which Government Office regions he and his predecessors have made a direction under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 not to retain a local plan policy to protect agricultural land; [293004]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1338W, on planning: agriculture, in respect of which local plans, broken down by Government Office region, the Secretary of State has made a direction under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to not save a local plan policy of protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land since October 2007. [293225]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local planning authorities apply to the Secretary of State where they consider it necessary for the Secretary of State to save policies under paragraph 1(3) of schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. In the following cases the Secretary of State declined to save a policy relating to agricultural land:

East Midlands

- Northamptonshire County Council Waste Local Plan

South East

- Bracknell Forest
- Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
- Chiltern
- Crawley
- East Hampshire
- Eastleigh
- Elmbridge
- Guildford
- Hart
- Medway
- Mid Sussex
- Milton Keynes Minerals Local Plan
- Runnymede
- Tandridge
- Wycombe

South West

- North Dorset
- Torbay

Planning Permission: Advertising

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the procedure by which appeals against a decision by a local authority to refuse an advertisement application are considered by the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with the advertisement regulations and without taking into account the planning policies of the relevant local authority; and if he will make a statement. [294364]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Secretary of State has received representations from the Chair of Birmingham City Council's Planning Committee through correspondence from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood (Clare Short) and the hon. Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon). In considering an advertisement appeal an Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate would have regard to all the evidence presented, including any relevant policies in the development plan of a local authority.

Planning Permission: Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1437W, on planning permission: parking, (1) what planning guidance on car park charges was in force prior to 2001; and when such guidance was issued; [294431]

(2) what guidance has been issued to regional planning bodies on policies on car parking charges in regional transport strategies. [294432]

Mr. Ian Austin: Prior to 2001 paragraph 4.7 and 4.8 of the 1994 version of Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (PPG 13) provided planning advice on car parking charges. Paragraph 4.7 advised that:

> "The level of car parking charges may also be used as an instrument to encourage the use of alternative modes.... Authorities should seek to agree appropriate levels and charges for parking broadly to maintain existing competitive positions between competing local centres... Income from parking charges can be used not only for providing off-street parking facilities, but also to support public transport and highway improvements...."

Paragraph 4.8 stated

> "Parking charges.... Should not appear in development plans as policies (except in so far as the authority proposes to secure levels of charges.... through agreements) but they should be mentioned in the reasoned justification in support of the relevant land-use policies and proposals for the management of traffic."

Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), which apply at the regional and local level, should be read as a suite of documents. Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Spatial Strategies (PPS 11) contains advice on Regional Transport Strategies, which set the context for car parking standards and charges. Paragraph 35 of PPS 11 states,

> "RPBs should have regard to the guidance in PPG13 in setting parking standards appropriate to their region or parts of the region."

Planning: Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether additional funding is being provided to local authorities in relation to additional functions and roles resulting from the establishment of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [294905]

John Healey: The provisions of the Planning Act 2008 do not place any additional requirements on local government, but instead give councils a much clearer statutory role in the process to ensure that proper regard is given to their views.

The Government do not intend to provide additional funding to local government, who already:

look closely at any major infrastructure projects proposed in their area;

engage with developers on potential applications and enforce subsequent consents; and

bear their own costs for their involvement in any inquiry held by the Planning Inspectorate.

Property Development

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of approved planning developments which have not proceeded pending resolution of applications to register land as a town or village green in the last five years. [295165]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not collected centrally. While we do not have evidence that [illegible] is a widespread problem, we are aware of specific cases where this has occurred and the impact it can have on development. My officials are currently working with those in DEFRA to consider what changes to the current system may be required

Property Development: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on Planning Policy Guidance 25. [296007]

Mr. Ian Austin: No recent representations have been received about planning policy guidance note 25.

Regeneration: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W, on regeneration: finance, which independent audit authority will carry out the programme of audits of expenditure through the lifetime of the European Regional Development Fund programmes. [292851]

Barbara Follett: The independent Audit Authority for the ERDF programme is the Internal Audit Service of Communities and Local Government. CLG Internal Audit is functionally independent of the European Policy Division in CLG that is responsible for the overall management of the programme.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W, on regeneration: finance, if he will place in the Library a copy of the independent scrutiny report commissioned into explaining the management and financial control systems used by the regional development agencies and by his Department. [292852]

Barbara Follett: The independent, final opinion by the Audit Authority of the management and control systems used by the Regional Development Agencies and by the Department for Communities and Local Government which endorses each RDA and my Department has been placed in the Library of the House.

Repossession Orders

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been repossessed in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [295370]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 351W.

Shops: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to support small shops through the operation of the planning system. [294878]

Mr. Ian Austin: Policy EC6 of Draft PPS4 supports small shops proposing that local planning authorities should recognise that such shops can significantly enhance the character and vibrancy of centres and make a valuable contribution to consumer choice.

Draft policy EC13 also requires local planning authorities to protect and strengthen local and village shops ensuring that their importance to the local community is taken into account when assessing proposals that would result in their loss.

We will publish the final PPS4 by the end of the year.

Shops: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Valuation Office Agency's Zone of Shops Valuation Handbook was last updated. [292894]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Office Agency's zoning of shops handbook guidance, "It's All a Question of Zoning" has not been updated since 2000.

Social Rented Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects in allocation of social housing on *(a)* A8 nationals on the Worker Registration Scheme and *(b)* A2 nationals on the Worker Authorisation Scheme of giving greater priority to local people; [295695]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of giving greater priority to local people in allocation of social housing on *(a)* new age Travellers, *(b)* Irish Travellers and *(c)* Gypsies with no local connection to the area in which they are applying for accommodation; [295696]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of giving greater priority to local people in allocation of social housing on *(a)* migrant workers from member states of the EU prior to 2004 and *(b)* refugees; [295698]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of giving greater priority to local people on allocation of social housing on non-EEA nationals with *(a)* indefinite leave to remain and *(b)* limited leave to remain. [295699]

Mr. Ian Austin: The draft new guidance on the allocation of social housing published for consultation on 31 July was accompanied by a draft impact assessment

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/allocationimpactassessment

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on new social housing for rent in *(a)* England and *(b)* the City of York in each year since 1997-98. [295284]

Barbara Follett: The table shows the grant funding through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme for social rent in each financial year in the City of York local authority area. This includes both new build and acquisition and refurbishment. This does not include expenditure through the Affordable Housing Programme for Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) homes.

		£ million
Period	*City of York*	*England*
1997-98	1.00	456.47
1998-99	1.42	446.51
1999-2000	1.06	522.79
2000-01	2.25	575.66
2001-02	1.91	646.53
2002-03	1.46	760.23
2003-04	2.43	1,171.00
2004-05	3.13	1,050.04
2005-06	0.87	933.19
2006-07	0.83	1,432.55
2007-08	2.44	1,552.32
2008-09	6.36	2,038.13

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Social Rented Housing: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties were added to the stock of social rented housing in Suffolk through *(a)* construction and *(b)* purchase in each of the last five years; and how many he expects to be added in each of the next five years. [296134]

Mr. Ian Austin: The table shows the number of new social rented homes built and acquired in Suffolk in each of the last five years.

	New build	*Acquisitions*	*Total social rent*
2003-04	380	60	440
2004-05	230	30	260
2005-06	430	20	440
2006-07	540	10	540
2007-08	670	40	710

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Total affordable housing supply includes intermediate rent and Low Cost Home Ownership, as well as homes for Social Rent. In 2007-08, a total of 1,160 affordable homes were completed in Suffolk through new build and acquisitions.

Total affordable housing supply statistics for 2008-09 will be released by CLG in December 2009.

Information on the number of homes completed for social rent under the NAHP for April to September 2009 will be released by the HCA later this year.

As set out in the Homes and Communities Corporate Plan for 2009-10 we are aiming to deliver in England 55,000 affordable homes in 2009-10 and 56,000 in 2010-11. Future estimates levels of expenditure and outputs beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the next spending review.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for *(a)* the revised edition of Planning Policy Statement 4 and *(b)* the introduction of a competition test in retail planning. [294884]

Mr. Ian Austin: The final version of Planning Policy Statement 4 will be published by the end of the year.

On 2 October 2009, the Competition Commission recommended the introduction of a competition test into the planning system for planning applications by grocery retailers as a remedy to the adverse effect on competition it had identified. If adopted this would apply not only to England but to the devolved administrations. The Government has 90 days to respond to the Commission's report from the date of its publication.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of consumer choice his Department plans to use in its revision of Planning Policy Statement 4. [294892]

Mr. Ian Austin: Policy EC6 of Draft PPS4 requires Local Planning Authorities to support the diversification of uses in town centres and plan for a strong mix of retail uses, recognising that smaller shops can significantly enhance the character and vibrancy of a centre.

We will publish final PPS4 by the end of the year.

Tenant Services Authority: Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Tenant Services Authority has spent on branded bags since its establishment; and how many such bags have been produced. [294952]

John Healey: Since its establishment, the TSA has bought 3,000 branded bags which it has used at conferences and exhibitions. The bags formed part of the promotional materials purchased to help increase the profile of the TSA as the new independent regulator for social housing. The cost of these was £3,541 which equates to £1.18 per bag.

Tenants Rights

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of National Tenant Voice; and whether it will be located apart from the Tenant Services Authority. [294904]

John Healey: The National Tenants Voice has been allocated a budget of £ 1.5 million per annum under current comprehensive spending review plans.

A Project Group is leading development of the National Tenant Voice, and no decision has yet been reached on location.

Valuation Office: Data Protection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency will have access to records held on the national register of private landlords. [294509]

Mr. Ian Austin: Proposals to create a national register of private landlords include that it would be available to other Government organisations, including those with an enforcement role within the private rented sector. These proposals have been to public consultation and responses are being considered.

Valuation Office: Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 593W, on the Valuation Office: local government, which local authorities have sent data from building control departments to the Valuation Office Agency via the e-BAR/Valuebill facility in the last 12 months. [295838]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The sources of information vary from billing authority to billing authority. The Building Control Department will be a source for some billing authorities. The data that some billing authorities gather from their building control departments are not sent via the e-BAR/Valuebill facility although information derived from it may inform the billing authority and may result in an electronic billing authority report.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 593W, on the Valuation Office: local government, which version of the Valuebill Scheme the Valuation Office Agency's e-BAR facility uses. [295839]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Valuation Office Agency's e-BAR facility uses *(b)* the current version 4.1 of the scheme, as shown on

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/govtalk/schemasstandards/xmlschemas/schemalibrary/local_government_services/valuebill_schema_v41.aspx

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 29 October 2009

WORK AND PENSIONS

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what grants her Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292659]

Jonathan Shaw: The only grant payments made to a charitable organisation by the Department for Work and Pensions are those made to Motability, which is a charitable organisation with overall responsibility for the Motability scheme. More information about Motability can be found at:

www.motability.co.uk

Grant payments to Motability for the last five years are shown in the table.

	£000
2004-05	2,531
2005-06	2,640
2006-07	2,809
2007-08	2,960
2008-09	3,814

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria have been agreed with examining doctors for the diagnosis of osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners and former coal miners; and what steps her Department has taken to advise examining doctors of these criteria. [295709]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* ATOS Healthcare has provided guidance to the examining doctors about the diagnosis and assessment of osteoarthritis of the knee in underground coal miners which takes account of the recommendations of the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council.

Following receipt of a claim, a Jobcentre Plus decision maker will decide whether the claimant satisfies the occupational criteria for the prescribed disease. If the prescription is satisfied, a referral is made to ATOS Healthcare who will request any previous X-rays and/or any relevant hospital letters relating to the condition. All claimants are subsequently examined by a doctor working for ATOS Healthcare. The doctor will, through a combination of history and examination findings, provide advice to the decision maker as to whether the condition is diagnosed, and if it is, on the level of disablement with reference to a person of the same age and sex whose physical and mental condition is normal.

Industrial Health and Safety: Materials Handling Equipment

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make a statement on the frequency of the checks made on cranes by crane operators. [294633]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* Cranes are subject to the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998; these two sets of legislation between them provide a regime requiring inspection, maintenance and thorough examination of cranes.

A thorough examination of a crane is required before first use, and thereafter at least every 12 months (six months if the crane is used for carrying people) unless alteration, damage or any other conditions make an increased frequency of examination necessary. The examination must be carried out by a competent person who is appropriately qualified and experienced. Where, during a thorough examination, a serious defect is detected, a report has to be sent by the competent person to the enforcing authority within 28 days.

Inspection and maintenance checks must also be carried out, between thorough examinations. The frequency and extent of the checks are not specified by the regulations; these will depend on the potential risks from the equipment, the crane manufacturer's recommendations and the conditions encountered on site.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the frequency with which crane operators undertake checks on the cranes under their control; whether self-erected cranes are to be included in the register; and if she will make a statement. [294634]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* All cranes used at work are subject to the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998; these two sets of legislation between them provide a regime requiring inspection, maintenance and thorough examination of cranes. Health and Safety Executive inspectors consider routinely compliance with this regime when undertaking both planned inspection and incident investigation.

A consultation document setting out proposals for a statutorily-based registration scheme for tower cranes was published on 13 July this year. The consultation closed on 16 October 2009 and the responses are being analysed. The HSE Board will consider the results of the consultation at its meeting on 25 November 2009, including whether self-erected tower cranes should be included in its scope.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what qualifications persons carrying out pre-use checks on cranes are required to hold; and if she will make a statement. [294635]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* Under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998, a thorough examination of a crane is required before first use, and thereafter at least every 12 months (six months if the crane is used for carrying people) unless alteration, damage or any other conditions make an increased frequency of examination necessary. The examination must be carried out by a competent person who is appropriately qualified and experienced.

The Approved Code of Practice under LOLER requires that the person carrying out the thorough examination has appropriate practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of the lifting equipment to be thoroughly examined, but does not specify particular qualifications to be held by the competent person.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Health and Safety Executive plans to introduce its statutory register for tower cranes; and if she will make a statement. [294636]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The HSE is committed to having a statutorily-based scheme for tower crane registration in place by the date of common commencement in April 2010.

A consultation document setting out proposals for a statutorily-based registration scheme was published on 13 July this year. The consultation closed on 16 October and the responses are being analysed. The HSE Board will consider the results of the consultation at its meeting on 25 November.

Pensioners: Social security benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on pensioners: social security benefits, if she will update her estimate based upon the rate of capital disregard to be introduced in November 2009. [296540]

Angela Eagle: The following table shows the estimated cost of assuming different illustrative Bank of England rates of around 0.5 per cent. and 5 per cent. (averaged over a year), with and without the £10,000 capital disregard for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Estimated annual cost of tariff income set at approximately 1 per cent. higher than Bank of England base rate for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit (2009-10 prices)

Illustrative BoE rate (percentage)	*Rate applied to income above the disregard (percentage)*	*(i) Cost keeping current disregard (£ million)*	*(ii) Cost removing current disregard (£ million)*
0.5	1.5	300	170
5	6	130	-220

Notes:
1. These estimates have been calculated using the Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). Estimates are subject to sampling and modelling uncertainty.
2. Estimates are given for two possible average rates to illustrate their sensitivity to actual Bank of England base rates.
3. Income taken into account is rounded up to the next £1.
4. In column (i) the interest rate is applied to capital above the capital disregard.
5. Estimates do not include the cost of applying the rules to those in care/nursing homes.
6. Costs have been rounded to the nearest £10 million.

PRIME MINISTER

Devolution

Rob Marris: To ask the Prime Minister how many times he met in a formal capacity the *(a)* First Minister of Scotland, *(b)* First Minister of Wales, *(c)* First Minister of Northern Ireland and *(d)* Leader of the West Midlands Regional Assembly in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07, (iv) 2007-08 and (v) 2008-09; and how many times he has so met the Minister for the West Midlands since his appointment. [293897]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others.

Employment: EC Law

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of trade unions on implementing the EU Agency Workers Directive in the UK in 2011; [295056]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(b)* the Minister for Employment Relations on implementing the EU Agency Workers Directive in (a) 2009, (b) 2010 and (c) 2011; [295057]

(3) what discussions he has had with *(a)* members and *(b)* representatives of (i) the CBI, (ii) the EEF and (iii) British Chambers of Commerce on implementing the EU Agency Workers Directive in the UK in 2011. [295058]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues and a variety of organisations, representing employees and employers, to discuss a wide range of matters, including employment issues. I have made clear my commitment to legislate on the implementation of the agency workers directive.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions for offences of cruelty to animals were brought by *(a)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(b)* the Royal Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the last five years. [296531]

The Solicitor-General: The figures at Table 1 show the number of offences of cruelty to animals in respect of which a prosecution was brought by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in each of the last five years.

Also, at Table 2, are figures showing the number of defendants (not offences) prosecuted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) over the same period. RSPCA prosecutions are broken down to show the number and the proportion resulting in conviction and in dismissal, but no comparable analysis is available for the figures recorded by the CPS.

Table 1: Crown Prosecution Service—Offences of Cruelty to Animals in which a prosecution commenced

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total animal cruelty offences charged[1]	222	214	227	273	240

[1] Source:
CPS Management Information System

Table 2: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals—Defendant prosecuted for Cruelty to Animals

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Number	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*
Convictions	870	95.8	980	96.7	898	95.7	1,104	97.2	1,222	97.6
Dismissals	38	4.2	33	3.3	40	4.3	32	2.8	30	2.4
Total defendants prosecuted[1]	908	—	1,013	—	938	—	1,136	—	1,252	—

[1] Source:
RSPCA

Domestic Violence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions of (i) men and (ii) women for acts of domestic violence there were in (A) Twickenham constituency, (B) Richmond-upon-Thames and (C) London in each of the last five years. [296233]

The Solicitor-General: The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported data it is not possible to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) data in London are only available at borough level and cannot be broken down further. We are therefore unable to provide the data for the Twickenham constituency as requested, as this would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

In the London borough of Richmond there were 15 domestic violence prosecutions in 2005-6, 74 prosecutions in 2006-7, 92 prosecutions in 2007-8, 101 prosecutions in 2008-9 and in the first 6 months of 2009-10 there have been 82 prosecutions for domestic violence.

During the course of these last five years, there have been 364 cases prosecuted. Of these, only 13 cases have involved female defendants; 350 have involved male defendants; and in one case the gender was not recorded. There were 226 successful prosecutions out of the 364 cases prosecuted.

In the CPS London Area in 2005-6 there were 4,968 prosecutions for domestic violence, in 2006-7 there were 6,292, in 2007-8 there were 6,688, in 2008-9 there were 7193 and in the first six months of 2009-10 there have been 4,035 prosecutions for domestic violence.

Of these 29,176 prosecutions, 1,320 relate to female defendants; 27,847 relate to male defendants; and in nine cases the gender was not recorded. There were 16,753 successful prosecutions out of the 29,176 cases prosecuted.

Fraud: Convictions

Bob Spink: To ask the Solicitor-General how many convictions for offences of fraud in relation to corporate tax there were in *(a)* the UK., *(b)* the East of England region, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last 10 years. [296071]

The Solicitor-General: Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office was established in April 2005 as an independent prosecuting authority in England and Wales. We are therefore unable to provide information prior to that date nor earlier than that indicated below. Nor can we provide statistics relating to the whole of the United Kingdom since we do not prosecute in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

In our reply we have defined fraud in relation to corporate tax as prosecutions for VAT and Direct Tax offences.

The following table indicates the number of convictions in England and Wales, the East of England region and Essex. We are unable to provide details relating specifically to Castle Point constituency.

	England and Wales	*East of England*[1]	*Essex*
2009-10[2]	55	14	7
2008-09	150	28	15
2007-08	226	32	21
2006-07	172	8	7

[1] Prosecutions conducted in courts in the following counties: Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

[2] This information covers the 6 month period April to September 2009 only

It should be noted that simply because a conviction is recorded in the East of England or Essex, it does not follow that either the crime or the defendants are linked with that area. For example, a case could have been moved there by HM Court Service for logistical reasons.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity Targets

15. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made towards meeting its 2010 biodiversity targets; and if he will make a statement. [296315]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have made good progress on all of our biodiversity priorities. In particular, 89 per cent. of Sites of Special Scientific Interest are now in favourable or recovering condition; agri-environment schemes are leading to significant improvements; we have made great strides on the Marine and Coastal Access Bill; and internationally we continue to support a wide range of conservation projects through our Darwin Initiative.

Household Waste

16. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking together with local authorities to ensure household waste is dealt with effectively. [296317]

Dan Norris: We have worked with local authorities to make great improvements in effectively managing household waste over the last 10 years: recycling rates have more than quadrupled.

We recognise there is still much more to do and the Government will continue to work with local authorities, and others, to move towards a zero waste nation.

Grain Farmers: Income

17. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average income of grain farmers in each of the last three years. [296319]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The average farm business income for cereal farmers in England was £73,400 in 2007-08, up from £45,900 the year before.

Figures for 2008-09 are published today.

Bovine Tuberculosis

18. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle diagnosed with bovine tuberculosis were slaughtered in the most recent month for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [296320]

19. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered following a diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis in the most recent month for which figures are available. [296321]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In July 2009 2,350 cattle in GB were slaughtered as TB reactors or inconclusive reactors. A further 45 were slaughtered as direct contacts.

It should be remembered that TB is a chronic disease, and as such, the long-term trend is more significant than looking at any short-term trends.

European Habitats Directive

20. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibility he has for enforcement of the provisions of the European Habitats Directive; and if he will make a statement. [296322]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State's powers to enforce the implementation of the European Habitats Directive are set out in the 1994 Habitats Regulations. These include powers under regulations 22 and 23 to make Special Nature Conservation Orders specifying operations likely to destroy or damage sites protected under the directive, and to serve a notice on any person carrying out or proposing to carry out such an operation which has the effect of prohibiting such an operation.

Bluefin Tuna

21. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on preservation of bluefin tuna. [296324]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Bluefin tuna was the subject of a Commission presentation and statements by member states at the October Council of Fisheries Ministers in preparation for the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. I have stated previously that UK supports CITES listing for this species. However, in line with the common EU position, I look forward to ICCAT coming forward with appropriate management measures to reflect the latest stock position. I have made clear to EU colleagues that this is a critical issue and a test of ICCAT's credibility.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1595W, how much subsidy his Department received in respect of externally contracted catering services for staff in each of the last five years. [289071]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally, the subsidy paid in respect of externally contracted catering services for staff in the core-Department in each of the last five years is as follows:

April to March each year	*£*
2005-06	172,440
2006-07	172,440
2007-08	192,594
2008-09	169,372
2009-10	186,072

The year on year figures are not a comparable series because over the periods identified there have been changes to the number of sites offering catering services to staff, changes to catering facilities to accommodate increased throughput and rationalisation of suppliers down to one for all current core-DEFRA sites.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Navigator waste infrastructure study results. [294563]

Dan Norris: A copy of the Navigator waste infrastructure study results will be made available in the House Library.

Food: Packaging

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of categories of products which are presented for sale in unnecessary packaging; and if he will make a statement. [295593]

Dan Norris: There is no fixed definition of what constitutes 'unnecessary packaging'; decisions have to be made on a case by case basis and as such these decisions will only be relevant to that particular product.

However, one way of identifying opportunities for packaging reductions is to use benchmarking tools such as the Waste and Resources Action Programme's "Best in Class" database. This database compares a range of packaging solutions used for the same product and ranks them from the lightest to the heaviest. We encourage all users of packaging to make use of this data when specifying packaging. Action on the basis of this information is often taken at the sector level through voluntary agreements e.g. the Courtauld Commitment, or can be taken by individual packaging producers.

Greyhounds

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for a central database to trace the lifespan of each greyhound bred for racing. [296281]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 28 October 2009]*: We have no plans to bring forward such proposals. However, we will be introducing a requirement that all racing greyhounds must be micro-chipped, with the details of the owner placed on one of the existing microchip databases.

Ragwort

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to remove ragwort *(a)* in Eddisbury constituency and *(b)* nationally in 2009; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of ragwort which has been removed. [295608]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England investigates complaints about injurious weeds on behalf of DEFRA. During 2009, Natural England has issued 189 enforcement notices under the Weeds Act 1959 requiring occupiers to take action to prevent injurious weeds spreading to neighbouring land. Of these 189 enforcement notices, 15 were issued by the Natural England office in Worcester which covers the Eddisbury constituency area. It is not possible to be specific about the number issued for the Eddisbury constituency, nor is it possible to provide an estimate of what proportion of ragwort has been removed because this information is not held centrally.

Recycling: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of its targets for recycling waste each London borough achieved in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [296129]

Dan Norris: For the period in question, local authorities had one statutory recycling target consisting of two parts: Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) 82a (household dry recycling rate) and 82b (household composting rate). Statutory recycling targets were set for 2005-06 and 2007-08, but not for 2006-07.

The tables show the recycling and composting rate; the target for these combined rates; and whether it met the target or not and by how much for each of the 33 local authorities in London, for 2005-06 and 2007-08.

2007-08

Authority	*Dry recycling rate (BVPI 82a)*	*Com posting rate (BVPI 82b)*	*Recycling rate (82a+b)*	*Recycling and Composting Target*	*Met target*	*Percentage gap*
Bexley LB	24.03	17.62	41.64	30	Exceeded	11.64
Tower Hamlets LB	12.89	0.15	13.04	20	Not met	-6.96
City of London	33.02	0.38	33.39	20	Exceeded	13.39
Westminster City Council	21.88	0.84	22.72	20	Exceeded	2.72
Redbridge LB	17.39	5.00	22.38	20	Exceeded	2.38
Newham LB	12.34	2.06	14.40	20	Not met	-5.60
Havering LB	16.16	7.82	23.98	27	Not met	-3.02
Barking and Dagenham LB	14.83	5.58	20.41	20	Met	0.41
Waltham Forest LB	19.69	10.05	29.74	20	Exceeded	9.74
Islington LB	20.92	5.41	26.33	20	Exceeded	6.33
Haringey LB	19.11	6.57	25.68	20	Exceeded	5.68
Hackney LB	15.85	6.53	22.38	20	Exceeded	2.38
Enfield LB	18.08	10.11	28.19	27	Exceeded	1.19
Camden LB	23.89	3.23	27.12	30	Not met	-2.88
Barnet LB	18.26	12.42	30.68	27	Exceeded	3.68
Southwark LB	16.01	4.02	20.02	20	Met	0.02
Lewisham LB	21.40	0.58	21.99	30	Not met	-8.01
Greenwich LB	25.74	4.78	30.52	20	Exceeded	10.52
Sutton LB	22.61	9.86	32.48	30	Exceeded	2.48
Merton LB	23.33	3.75	27.08	21	Exceeded	6.08
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	18.96	6.66	25.62	30	Not met	-4.38
Croydon LB	16.42	6.29	22.71	30	Not met	-7.29
Bromley LB	27.62	6.84	34.46	21	Exceeded	13.46
Richmond upon Thames LB	24.60	11.54	36.14	20	Exceeded	16.14
Hounslow LB	17.49	4.26	21.75	30	Not met	-8.25

2007-08

Authority	*Dry recycling rate (BVPI 82a)*	*Com posting rate (BVPI 82b)*	*Recycling rate (82a+b)*	*Recycling and Composting Target*	*Met target*	*Percentage gap*
Hillingdon LB	21.17	12.58	33.76	21	Exceeded	12.76
Harrow LB	21.35	18.20	39.55	24	Exceeded	15.55
Ealing LB	21.08	7.86	28.94	30	Not met	-1.06
Brent LB	12.08	8.90	20.98	20	Exceeded	0.98
Wandsworth LB	24.37	0.29	24.66	24	Exceeded	0.66
Lambeth LB	22.54	2.58	25.12	30	Not met	-4.88
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	27.03	0.90	27.93	21	Exceeded	6.93
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	25.39	1.50	26.89	24	Exceeded	2.89

2005-06

Authority	*Dry recycling rate (BVPI 82a)*	*Composting rate (BVPI 82b)*	*Recycling rate (82a+b)*	*Recycling and composting target*	*Met target*	*Percentage gap*
Bexley LB	21.5	16.21	37.71	30	Exceeded	7.71
Tower Hamlets LB	8.85	0	8.85	18	Not met	-9.15
City of London	18.1	0	18.1	18	Met	0.1
Westminster City Council	17.79	0.5	18.29	18	Met	0.29
Redbridge LB	12.79	4.55	17.34	21	Not met	-3.66
Newham LB	8.63	1.5	10.13	18	Not met	-7.87
Havering LB	11.85	5.96	17.81	27	Not met	-9.19
Barking and Dagenham LB	12.18	4.42	16.6	18	Not met	-1.4
Waltham Forest LB	13.44	8.41	21.85	18	Exceeded	3.85
Islington LB	15.7	2.59	18.29	18	Met	0.29
Haringey LB	16.08	3.15	19.23	18	Exceeded	1.23
Hackney LB	11.84	4.37	16.21	18	Not met	-1.79
Enfield LB	16.92	10.37	27.29	27	Met	0.29
Camden LB	22.24	4.9	27.14	30	Not met	-2.86
Barnet LB	17.98	9.4.9	27.47	27	Met	0.47
Southwark LB	11.55	3.41	14.96	18	Not met	-3.04
Lewisham LB	11.96	0.24	12.2	18	Not met	-5.8
Greenwich LB	18.16	3.5	21.66	18	Exceeded	3.66
Sutton LB	20.21	8.86	29.07	30	Not met	-0.93
Merton LB	19.35	3.24	22.59	27	Not met	-4.41
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	17.41	6.56	23.97	30	Not met	-6.03
Croydon LB	12.99	3.18	16.17	30	Not met	-13.8
Bromley LB	22.79	4.46	27.25	21	Exceeded	6.25
Richmond upon Thames LB	21.06	7.53	28.59	30	Not met	-1.41
Hounslow LB	15.74	3.51	19.25	30	Not met	-10.8
Hillingdon LB	16.3	11.4	27.7	21	Exceeded	6.7
Harrow LB	13.66	13.04	26.7	24	Exceeded	2.7
Ealing LB	15.36	3.92	19.28	30	Not met	-10.7
Brent LB	10.89	9.12	20.01	18	Exceeded	2.01
Wandsworth LB	20.63	0.33	20.96	24	Not met	-3.04
Lambeth LB	18.96	3.19	22.15	21	Exceeded	1.15
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	19.29	0.65	19.94	30	Not met	-10.1
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	21	0.49	21.49	24	Not met	-2.51

Source:
WasteDataFlow

Rivers: Canoeing

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase access to rivers for canoeists. [296318]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have been working, through our agencies, to provide better access to inland water for canoeists and other users.

The Environment Agency's work on four pilot rivers aimed to increase understanding of access agreements and develop a toolkit for others to use, and shows what can be achieved by agreements. Over time there is scope for voluntary agreements to significantly increase the amount of inland water accessible to all.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the carbon footprint of an air passenger when travelling from London to New York in *(a)* first, *(b)* business and *(c)* economy class. [296605]

Paul Clark: No estimates of the carbon footprint of an air passenger when travelling from London to New York in *(a)* first, *(b)* business and *(c)* economy class have been made.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in partnership with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, published guidance for businesses and organisations on how to measure and report their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in September 2009.

Indicative emission factors, by seating class, were developed on the basis of the average area occupied compared to an economy class passenger. The factors are available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting/conversion-factors.htm

Departmental Public Expenditure

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on whether funding allocated to his Department is to be re-allocated to the Department for Communities and Local Government to help implement the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative Programme for 2009-10. [290488]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State for the Department for Transport discussed his Department's contribution to the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative Programme with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, as part of the process of publishing Building Britain's Future.

Eurostar: Cleaning Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) when the Eurostar Carlisle Cleaning Group contract is to be renewed; [295905]

(2) what payments have been made by Eurostar to Carlisle Group in the last five years; and what payments are expected to be made in the next three years. [295906]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is not a party to the contract between Carlisle and Eurostar. However, details of the contract are publicly available from the Official Journal of the EU (218/2008). This indicates that a six-year contract was awarded on 2 October 2008 with a value of £14 million. The document is on the internet at the following address:

http://www.dgmarket.com/tenders/np-notice.do~3237100

In relation to payments made prior to that date, as the Department is not party to these contracts it has no information regarding their value.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent guidance his Department has issued to fire and rescue services on the application of European Road Transport Working Time Regulation (EC) 561/2006 in respect of retained firefighters who drive vehicles and who also *(a)* work as commercial drivers and *(b)* work in other occupations. [296495]

Paul Clark: The EU Regulation on drivers' hours (Regulation (EC) 561/2006) prescribes maximum limits on driving time and minimum requirements for breaks and rest periods.

The then Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) met with the Retained Firefighters Union in November 2008 and explained that time spent on duty as a retained firefighter outside a driver's regular employment counts as other work rather than rest. As a result, the driver is required, in common with other drivers who have a second job, to declare it as a period of other work and ensure that the required daily and weekly rest periods are taken.

Local Transport Plans: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the guidance issued in July 2009 to local transport authorities on the production of local transport plans, by what percentage or other amount local transport authorities are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of their local transport plans; and what proportion of those reductions is expected to be attributable to *(a)* policies implemented under local transport plans and *(b)* other factors. [296417]

Mr. Khan: The performance of local authorities on transport, including CO_2 emissions, is managed through the National Indicator Set and through Local Area Agreements. Of 152 local authorities, 102 have already selected National Indicator 186—measuring the per capita reduction in CO_2 emissions—as a priority in their Local Area Agreement, demonstrating their commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

Recent local transport plan guidance recognises that local authorities are particularly important partners in helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with our climate change goal for transport. The Government have a policy of devolving responsibility to local transport authorities so they can make the right choices for their local areas. It would therefore not be appropriate for Government to specify the amount of greenhouse gas emissions reductions expected from each authority.

Motor Vehicles: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles were registered for *(a)* personal and *(b)* business use in Norwich, North constituency in (i) 1997, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2009. [296020]

Paul Clark: The following table provides the number of privately- and company-owned vehicles in the Norwich, North constituency that were licensed at the end of the year in (i) 1997, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. Data for 2009 are not available:

	Privately-owned vehicles	*Company-owned vehicles*	*Total*
1997	40,349	8,342	48,691
2007	51,323	9,283	60,606
2008	51,685	8,324	60,009

There are a number of vehicles in the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database which have incomplete or inaccurate postcodes and therefore cannot be allocated to any constituency.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* passenger cars and *(b)* light vans (i) were de-registered and (ii) had their registration certification annulled in the latest year for which information is available; and how many certificates of destruction were issued for end-of-life vehicles in the latest year for which information is available. [296414]

Paul Clark: The information sought is not held in the format requested. Separate figures are not recorded for passenger cars and light vans.

In the financial year 2008-09:

(a) the total number of vehicles destroyed was 1,109,574;

(b) the total number of certificates of destruction issued was 1,026,054;

(c) the total number of vehicles de-registered on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency vehicle register was 909,653.

Railways: Environment Protection

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what procedures are in place to encourage train operating companies to improve their environmental efficiency demands. [296044]

Chris Mole: In the 2007 rail White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", the Government committed to setting an environmental target for the railway in Control Period 5 (2014-19). This is under development.

In addition, the Department for Transport has included environmental objectives in recent rail franchise specifications requiring operators to report on environmental performance and put in place measures to reduce environmental impacts. The rail industry also reports its total energy consumption and carbon emissions to the Office of Rail Regulation on an annual basis.

West Coast Railway Line: Speed Limits

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether there are plans for the improvement of the West Coast Main Line track north of Preston to increase running speeds. [296830]

Chris Mole: The recently completed modernisation of the West Coast Main Line maximised the opportunities for line speed improvements north of Preston. While the curvature of the line limits speeds in a number of places, significant sections of 125 miles per hour running have been delivered bringing greatly reduced journey times for passengers.

WALES

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what discussions he has had with telecommunications providers on the loss of ITV channels as a result of digital switchover in Wales; [294317]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the loss of ITV channels as a result of digital switchover in Wales. [294316]

Mr. Hain: The "loss" of television channels to some viewers has occurred not because of the digital switchover, but because of a national re-tune. The Broadcasters decided to go ahead with the re-organisation of the Freeview platform in order to make space for the introduction of new technology to enable High Definition services on the digital terrestrial television (or Freeview) platform. It has also increased the availability of Channel Five to the point where it can now be received in almost all households across the UK—98.5 per cent. An estimated 500,000 Freeview homes will be able to see Channel Five for the first time after re-tuning.

Around 78,000 viewers in Wales, who receive their transmissions via a relay station, may have lost access to ITV 3 or ITV 4 following the re-tune but many viewers will of course have gained Channel Five and HD capability. These channels are not necessarily permanently unavailable as there are alternative means of accessing both. Viewers can find out how to do so by contacting Digital UK via their website at:

www.digitaluk.co.uk

or the helpline on 08456 505050 or by investing in alternative platforms such as Freesat, cable or satellite—not all of which require a subscription.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army in each region who have served in Afghanistan have been awarded the Military Cross in each of the last seven years. [296498]

Bill Rammell: Three members of the Territorial Army who have served in Afghanistan have been awarded the Military Cross in the last seven years (2003-09), one in 2007 and two in 2009.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former service personnel who left the armed forces as a result of injury since 1997 were from *(a)* England, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency. [296393]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost as residential address information for former service personnel is not held with reference to country, county or parliamentary constituency. Further, there are significant questions over the accuracy and completeness of what is held; for example, some ex-service personnel do not provide a valid contact address on leaving the services or do not notify the MOD of a change of address if they move.

Armed Forces: Somalia

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are assigned to operations *(a)* in and *(b)* related to Somalia; and whether any increase in such assignments is planned. [295174]

Bill Rammell: The UK armed forces have provided a colonel to the UN political office in Somalia. We have also provided staff officers on request for short periods of time to support the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and we provide training assistance to AMISOM forces before deployment. The UK is also carrying out training and support activity with countries in the region in order to reduce the threat of terrorist activity.

We are providing considerable support to counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia. The Royal Navy is contributing two frigates and a support tanker, as well as sizeable contributions to all of the operation headquarters. Some 320 members of the armed forces are specifically engaged in countering piracy as part of the EU operation ATALANTA and NATO Operation OCEAN SHIELD. A further 560 are contributing to maritime security in the region within NATO and the combined maritime forces, including countering smuggling and piracy.

MOD is looking to enhance international operations underway in and around Somalia, and is working with our international colleagues on the best way in which we can support security sector development for the Somali Transitional Federal Government. These considerations include manpower enhancements in niche capacities where UK expertise can make a difference.

Ascension Island

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in his discussions with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on future funding arrangements for Ascension Island. [295620]

Bill Rammell: The decision by the Ascension Island Government to remove a variation in the Ministry of Defence's annual property tax liability, which had the effect of almost doubling the amount, is currently being disputed. The MOD, therefore, has not paid this new tax liability in full.

Discussions are ongoing in order to seek an agreement that is fair and equitable, and assurance that the services received from the Ascension Island Government represent best value for money. The Ascension Island Council has commissioned an HMRC-led study, supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, into tax arrangements on Ascension Island. The Ministry of Defence is being consulted as part of this study.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296080]

Bill Rammell: The MOD contracts solely with Royal Mail Group for provision of mail services through the Forces Mail Settlement. The terms of the contract, which ran until 1 April 2009, continue to operate pending agreement and signature of a new contract.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on *(a)* members of his Department and *(b)* uniformed members of the armed forces using first class travel on official business; and if he will make a statement. [295682]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* When movement is by commercial airline, as opposed to MOD charter or part-charter, class of travel is determined by the length of flight and the rank or civil service grade of the passenger. The majority of armed forces and civilian personnel will travel economy, tourist or budget class. Only when flights are longer than 2.5 hours will the passenger be entitled to travel club, executive, new economy, ambassador or premier economy. Two star officers and above and two star senior civil service and above, will mostly travel by club, executive, business, new economy, ambassador or premier. However, when this class of travel is not available, the flight is longer than 2.5 hours, and this is the only method of travel available to meet with designated service priorities, then the passenger is entitled to travel first class.

For rail and sea travel, most will travel by standard class. However, officers and civil servants who are Lieutenant Commander, Major, Squadron Leader, pay band C2 and above, travelling on duty, are entitled to first class travel.

Regardless of entitlement, though, all personnel are strongly encouraged to use the most economic means of travel at all times.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there have been any recent changes to the Gurkha pension plan; and whether any changes are expected to take effect in the next five months. [296831]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The last changes made to the pension arrangements affecting Gurkha personnel were in October 2007 when the MOD initiated the Gurkha offer to transfer for serving and recently retired Gurkhas to allow them to transfer their pension benefits to one of two armed forces pension schemes. This offer was limited solely to service after 1 July 1997. There are no plans to make changes to the current Gurkha pension arrangements.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft of each type are assigned to the *(a)* 12 Squadron, *(b)* 14 Squadron, *(c)* XV Squadron, *(d)* 617 Squadron, *(e)* 42 (R) Squadron, *(f)* 120 Squadron, *(g)* 201 Squadron, *(h)* 43 Squadron, *(i)* 111 Squadron and *(j)* 202 Squadron D Flight. [296034]

Bill Rammell: The number of aircraft assigned to particular squadrons may vary on a daily basis. As at 23 October the information requested is provided in the following table:

Squadron	*Aircraft type*
12 Squadron	Nil Tornado GR4 (Squadron currently on post operational leave)
14 Squadron	9 Tornado GR4
XV Squadron	19 Tornado GR4
617 Squadron	11 Tornado GR4
42(R) Squadron	All use Nimrod MR2 aircraft from a pool of 11
120 Squadron	As above
201 Squadron	As above
43 Squadron	Disbanded on 13 July 2009
111 Squadron	13 Tornado F3
D Flight, 202 Squadron	2 Sea King Mk3

Military Decorations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of servicemen eligible for a medal to mark their service in the armed forces since 1945; and what estimate has been made of the cost of issuing such a medal. [296799]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no plans to institute a medal solely for being a member of the armed forces. Medals are primarily awarded for campaign service, for individual acts of gallantry and for long and meritorious service.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1400W, on nuclear submarines, how many such incidents resulted in fatalities. [295434]

Bill Rammell: There were two fatalities as a result of an explosion onboard HMS Tireless in March 2007, the fire from which was categorised as Medium Scale in the earlier answer given on 2 April by the then Minister for the Armed Forces, my right hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, North-East (Mr. Ainsworth) There have been no other fatalities as a result of fires since 1987.

Territorial Army

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Territorial Army units the Armed Forces Minister has visited since his appointment. [296191]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: I visited 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital (Volunteers) in Cardiff in August 2009 and 4th Battalion the Mercian Regiment at Camp Bastion in July.

Trident

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make the initial gate decision on the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system; and what immediate costs are associated with initiation of the project. [295390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Board will consider the work required during the Concept Phase later this year.

Work on replacing our deterrent submarines was initiated on April 2007 with the start of the project's Concept Phase. Since the beginning of April 2007 to the end of September 2009 some £320 million has been spent. The Initial Gate decision marks the end of the Concept Phase. The final spend on reaching Initial Gate cannot be calculated until after that point is reached.

Until Initial Gate decisions are made it is too early to say what the likely expenditure will be for the period between that time and the Main Gate decision point, which is when the principal contracts with industry will be signed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Elections

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the *(a)* number of those eligible to vote and *(b)* level of turnout in each district of Helmand province in the recent Presidential elections in Afghanistan. [295622]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 460,811 people registered to vote in Helmand in 2004 and 156,662 in 2008. Holders of voter registration cards from both 2004 and 2008 were eligible to vote in the 2009 elections.

The final certified numbers of votes in the first round of the presidential elections, following the completion of the election audit process by the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC), for each Helmand district are as follows:

Lashkar Gah—28,992
NahriSaraj—16,895
Nad-e-Ali—3,374
Sangin—399
Kajaki—313
Musa Qala—4,580
Nowzad—0
Nawa—2,612
Garmsir—4,528
Khaneshin—260
Vashir—2,563

The number of votes for each district was reduced after the IEC and ECC completed their process to exclude fraudulent votes (on 19 October 2009).

Afghanistan: Foreign Relations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the report of the Afghanistan Electoral Complaints Commission for the Government's policy towards that country; and if he will make a statement. [295193]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* We welcome the audit process, completed on 19 October, conducted by the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC), which was robust and transparent and we are confident in their findings. On 20 October 2009, the IEC set a date for the second round of the presidential elections and President Karzai and Dr. Abdullah confirmed that they will both run in this.

We are also confident that a second round, due to be held 7 November 2009, can be carried out. Planning for the eventuality that a second round would be required has been taking place for some time and we will continue to provide support for the ongoing preparations. The IEC and Afghan security forces, with UN and International Security Assistance Force support, are working to maximise the opportunities for people to vote.

Afghanistan needs a credible second round and a credible conclusion to this process, resulting in a government that represents the legitimate will of the Afghan people. Our policy to support this process through to the end, and to encourage all parties to respect Afghanistan's Constitution and Electoral Law, remains consistent and firm.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the terms of reference for the latest review of the Helmand road map are; and in what way they differ from the terms of reference for previous reviews. [295619]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We review the Helmand road map regularly, monitoring the delivery of stabilisation work in response to operational changes. The road map is designed as a living document, constantly reviewed and updated in light of lessons learned. Our stabilisation work in Helmand in support of the Afghan Government is a fundamental part of the campaign.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the conditions under which Aung San Suu Kyi is being held; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Burma on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [296494]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Aung San Suu Kyi's latest term of 18 months under house arrest began with the conclusion of her sham trial on 11 August 2009. The terms of her detention were stated by the court to be:

she must remain on her compound;

she would be permitted medical treatment from her own doctor when required;

she could read state and private Burmese newspapers (subject to censorship) and watch the two state TV channels ;

she could communicate with others in writing, with prior consent by the authorities;

she would be permitted visitors, subject to approval by the authorities; and

she could make requests to the authorities to meet any other needs she might identify.

Aung San Suu Kyi has asked the regime for clarification on the terms of her detention and the processes that need to be observed but has not yet had a response. It is not yet clear whether these terms will be honoured in full by the Burmese authorities, but our ambassador to Burma, as local EU presidency, was allowed to meet Aung San Suu Kyi together with diplomats from the US and Australian embassies on 9 October 2009. This was a small, but welcome, development. We urge the authorities to allow her regular and unfettered access to her party and other democratic and ethnic leaders, and to embark on a genuine and inclusive process of dialogue and national reconciliation. We continue to call for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate and unconditional release as well as the release of the more than 2,000 political prisoners detained alongside her.

Our ambassador raised the conditions of Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest with Burmese Ministers most recently on 16 October 2009, and will continue to do so at every opportunity.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296004]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to playing its part in the further efficiency savings targets announced in the 2009 budget as part of the wider Government drive to deliver an additional £5 billion in savings for the Operational Efficiency Programme in 2010-11.

The FCO contribution to this target (including BBC World Service and British Council) is £20 million. The FCO will meet its part through further efficiencies in procurement, corporate services and FCO Services costs.

There are no specific financial training courses for FCO Ministers. Financial training available for officials includes a number of different targeted courses which includes elements covering value for money savings.

Embassies: Civil Partnerships

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil partnerships have been celebrated in British consulates. [296863]

Chris Bryant: Since the introduction of the Civil Partnership Act on 18 November 2004, 487 civil partnerships have been registered at British consulates overseas. The following table provides information on the countries where British consulates can register civil partnerships and the number registered since the introduction of the Act.

Countries where civil partnerships can be registered	*Registrations*
Argentina	7
Australia (except Tasmania[1])	308
Austria	2
Bulgaria	1
Canada[1]	1
Colombia	19
Costa Rica	0
Croatia	1
Czech Republic[1]	3
Guatemala	3
Hungary[1]	4
Ireland	17
Israel	1
Japan	22
Latvia	0
Malta	0
Moldova	0
Mongolia	0
Panama	4
Peru	7
Philippines	0
Portugal	7
South Africa[1]	19
Switzerland[1]	5
Turkmenistan	0
Uruguay	0
Venezuela	7
Vietnam	49
Total	487

[1] Have subsequently introduced their own civil partnership legislation.

Iran

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the members of the United Nations General Assembly who *(a)* applauded and *(b)* protested against the speech of the President of Iran in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009; and if he will make a statement. [296557]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have consistently condemned the Iranian President's inflammatory comments about the state of Israel and his repeated offensive statements about the holocaust. We cannot ignore what the leader of a significant country says during his speech at the UN General Assembly, and there was widespread international criticism of President Ahmadinejad's comments at the UN General Assembly in 2008.

During his speech to the 2009 UN General Assembly, President Ahmadinejad again made anti-Semitic assertions. This immediately prompted UK officials to leave the room, alongside representatives from Australia; Argentina; Costa Rica; Denmark; France; Germany; Hungary; Italy; New Zealand; Palau; Poland; Slovenia; Uruguay; and the USA. The Canadian and Israeli delegations had left the room before the speech had started.

British officials did not make a note at the time of the countries whose representatives applauded the speech.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps at the United Nations he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take in respect of statements about Israel made by the President of Iran at the United Nations General Assembly; and if he will make a statement. [296565]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We made clear our condemnation of the Iranian President's speech during the UN General Assembly by leaving the room. Prior to this speech at the UN, President Ahmadinejad had given a similarly outrageous speech at Friday Prayers at Tehran University, during which he again denied the Holocaust and warned that "the Zionist regime was doomed to destruction".

In response to this speech my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement denouncing his claims as "abhorrent as well as ignorant", and calling on the world community to "stand up against this tide of abuse". It is totally unacceptable that one member of the UN should repeatedly threaten the existence of another.

The Government have consistently condemned the Iranian President's inflammatory comments about the State of Israel and his offensive statements about the Holocaust. Such rhetoric is a recipe for instability and only serves to undermine international confidence in Iran's willingness to act as a respectable member of the international community. We will continue to speak out in response to such deplorable and ignorant comments.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken in the last six months and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to assist the Egyptian Government to stop the smuggling of offensive weapons into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [296575]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since the Gaza conflict, officials from nine countries (Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, the UK, and the US) have met several times to discuss how to support action against arms smuggling. Officials met most recently in Ottawa on 10-11 June 2009. However, the tools the international community has at its disposal are limited and the challenges of interdiction high.

We continue to discuss all aspects of the situation in Gaza—including arms smuggling and action to combat it—with international partners.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of rocket attacks from Gaza aimed at southern Israel; and if he will make a statement. [296626]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: According to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs there have been 122 rockets fired from Gaza since Operation Cast Lead. The UK condemns all such attacks and continues to call on those responsible to renounce violence.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the allegations of war crimes made in respect of each party to the recent conflict in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [296640]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are allegations of serious concern which cannot be ignored. Rocket attacks by Palestinian militants targeted at innocent civilians in southern Israel constitute a breach of international humanitarian law. There are also serious allegations about Israeli conduct and we urge the Israeli Government to carry out full, credible and impartial investigations.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of military action against Iran by *(a)* Israel and *(b)* other states in the event of Iran making further progress towards the development of (i) long range missiles and (ii) nuclear weapons; and if he will make a statement. [296632]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We regularly review and monitor a range of threats to security in the middle east. We are aware of speculation about military action against Iran. This underlines the urgency of finding a diplomatic solution to Iran's nuclear programme and we are working intensely with international partners to achieve this.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which members of his Department attended the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council to *(a)* discuss and *(b)* vote on the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict; and if he will make a statement. [296572]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK was represented by our Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Mr. Peter Gooderham.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress in bringing Fatah and Hamas together to create a unified Palestinian negotiating position; and if he will make a statement. [296617]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, on 16 October 2009. We understand, despite Fatah agreeing to Egypt's proposals, Hamas has not. The Foreign Minister stated that the original deadline and further repeated deadlines for reaching agreement among the Palestinian factions will not be met.

The UK continues to favour any reconciliation which supports peace negotiations and enhances efforts to improve governance, security and the economy in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the UK did not vote in the UN Human Rights Council on the motion relating to the report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict; and if he will make a statement. [296619]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made absolutely clear that the Goldstone report raised very serious issues that we wanted to see addressed. We also made clear that the resolution did not adequately address Hamas' actions and Israel's right to protect its citizens.

We did not vote because we were in the middle of detailed discussions about three key issues: the establishment of an independent inquiry, access for humanitarian aid to Gaza and how to restart the peace process. We were pursuing these at the highest level, between my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, President Sarkozy of France and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel. The vote was called in the middle of those discussions and we did not wish to compromise the detailed work on those fundamental issues.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of *(a)* Iran and *(b)* Syria on their support for Hezbollah and Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [296627]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made clear on a number of occasions to Iran, and will continue to do so, that we have serious concerns about their ongoing support for Hezbollah and Hamas. Such support is unacceptable and only serves to undermine regional security.

With Syria, we raise regularly at ministerial and senior official meetings that support for Hezbollah and Hamas is inconsistent with regional stability and peace. I raised this during my visit in August 2009. The issue is also raised frequently by our British ambassador to Syria in the course of his meetings with Syrian Ministers and officials, most recently on 27 October 2009.

Middle East: Water

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on proposals to share water supplies from the River Jordan; and if he will make a statement. [296629]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not received any recent reports on proposals to share water supplies in Jordan.

Monitor Group: Meetings

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers or officials in his Department have had *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts with the Monitor Group in the last five years. [295113]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on the building of settlements in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [296639]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Settlements are illegal and an obstacle to peace. We raise the issue frequently with Israeli Ministers. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has pressed the Israeli Prime Minister on this several times, most recently in his joint letter of 16 October 2009 with French President Sarkozy. I also raised settlements with my counterpart on 27 October 2009.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress in negotiations on the matter of Israeli settlement-building in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [296641]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are extremely concerned by ongoing settlement activity both in the west bank and east Jerusalem, including the Israeli Government's approval in September of new tenders for settlement projects.

We wholeheartedly support the US effort to restart peace talks. Settlements are illegal and an obstacle to peace. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has pressed the Israeli Prime Minister on this several times, most recently in his joint letter of 16 October 2009 with French President Sarkozy. However, it will be for the US to announce what they have agreed with the parties.

Russia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects to meet his Russian counterpart to discuss UK-Russian relations and global issues. [296497]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is travelling to Moscow on 1 November 2009. As part of his visit, he will meet Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov for talks on 2 November 2009.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take in response to the EU report on Sri Lanka's human rights record. [295476]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

As stated in the joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Department for International Development statement of 20 October, the European Commission's report on Sri Lanka's implementation of international human rights conventions raises serious concerns, which we share. We are continuing at every opportunity to strongly urge the Government of Sri Lanka to take immediate action to address the issues outlined in this report.

The report is a precursor to the Commission's recommendation to EU member states on whether Sri Lanka should continue to benefit from the GSP+ trade preference scheme. We expect to receive this recommendation by the end of the year and, once such a recommendation is presented, we will assess it on its merits. We are clear that in order to retain its GSP+ preferences Sri Lanka must respect its international human rights obligations under GSP+.

Temple Mount

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on recent incidents of disorder on the Temple Mount, Jerusalem. [296628]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are extremely concerned by recent disturbances on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif. Our Consulate General in Jerusalem is monitoring the situation on the ground extremely closely. We call on all parties to show restraint, and refrain from provocative actions in order to prevent the situation escalating. The EU presidency made this clear to both Israeli and Palestinian authorities on 26 October 2009.

Turkey: Israel

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for UK policy of the state of relations between Turkey and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [296616]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Relations between Israel and Turkey are primarily a matter for those two countries. We work closely with both on a wide range of issues and will continue to do so. In particular, achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East remains one of UK's top priorities and both Israel and Turkey have key roles to play in achieving this.

Yvonne Fletcher

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Metropolitan Police officers are working on the investigation into the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [294130]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The investigation into the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher has always remained open and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) remains committed to identifying those people responsible for murdering WPC Fletcher by deploying the resources necessary to pursue the investigation. Detectives from the MPS inquiry team have visited Libya several times and met officials from the Libyan investigation team. The MPS remains ready to deploy officers to return to Libya in the future so that they can progress the inquiry further.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Copyright

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* publish on the parliamentary website a copy of the Review of the Management of Parliamentary Copyright dated July 2009. [296496]

Nick Harvey: This internal paper has been prepared for the Printing and Publishing Management Group of officials (PPMG) which advises on parliamentary copyright. It has not yet been considered by that group and so will not be published for the time being. However, I will ensure that the hon. Member is kept up to date with developments.

Lighting

Mr. Hayes: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the Department of Facilities has made of the cost of compliance with legislation on incandescent light bulbs; and how many such light bulbs are installed in *(a)* the Chamber, *(b)* the Press Gallery, *(c)* areas open to the public and *(d)* elsewhere on the part of the Parliamentary Estate for which the House of Commons Commission has responsibility. [296123]

Nick Harvey: Incandescent lighting on the parliamentary estate has been gradually replaced with lower energy lighting over the last five years, mostly during routine lamp changes. Therefore, the only cost of compliance has been the cost of the bulbs themselves which is offset by their increased life and will begin to produce savings within 500 hours of use. Due to the size and complexity of the estate, detailed records of light bulbs are not kept, but virtually no incandescent lighting remains within areas *(a)* the Chamber and *(b)* the Press Gallery. In *(c)*, areas open to the public, the vast majority of incandescent light bulbs have been replaced over the last 12 months with halogen lamps which consume some 30 per cent. less power. On *(d)*, the remainder of the Commons part of the estate, the only incandescent light fittings that the House has been unable to replace are those using small bayonet caps as these are not currently available. LED lighting is also currently being evaluated in several locations and low energy induction lighting is used widely such as in the Chamber and courtyards.

Members' Staff

Mike Penning: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost to the public purse was of the production of the House of Commons Commission's Report on Employment of Members' staff by the House, HC 1059 of session 2008-09. [296837]

Nick Harvey: The cost to the public purse was £1,615.10 excluding staff time.

Portcullis House: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the energy performance certificate for Portcullis House was last updated; what the most recent measurement of the energy performance of Portcullis House was; and if he will make a statement. [296212]

Nick Harvey: The current display energy certificate for Portcullis House dates from October 2008. In line with the regulations, the energy rating of the building is currently undergoing annual reassessment and the replacement certificate is expected to be available for display in November 2009.

Early indications show that the energy rating for Portcullis House has improved; from a rating of 203 in 2008 to 192 in 2009.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Independent Monitoring Board

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the operational cost of the Independent Monitoring Board for Prisons in Northern Ireland has been in each year since its inception. [295796]

Paul Goggins: This information is not available prior to financial year 2009-10. The total cost from 1 April 2009 for the year to date is £87,551.45.

Prisons: Complaints

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints the Independent Monitoring Board for Prisons in Northern Ireland has received in each year since its inception; how many such complaints were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* dismissed; and of those dismissed, for what reasons they were dismissed. [295794]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to quantify the number of complaints in any one year as many complaints are raised and dealt with on the day of members' rota visits and not always recorded. Complaints and requests dealt with by IMB are not subject to a formal resolution process but rather are addressed through local discussion with the relevant governor and consequently not formally recorded as being upheld or dismissed.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prison officers have been given the right of reply by the Independent Monitoring Board for Prisons (IMB) in Northern Ireland to a complaint made about them in each year since the IMB's inception. [295795]

Paul Goggins: The IMB has no jurisdiction to investigate complaints about prison staff. Where such a complaint is raised with the IMB, it would be immediately forwarded to the Prison Service for investigation.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296077]

Mr. Simon: Pitney Bowes Managed Services provide the mail room services for the Department. This contract is now due to expire in January 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296060]

Mr. Simon: In the light of the recommendations in the Operational Efficiency programme report, published on 21 April 2009, the Department is taking forward a number of strands of work to achieve greater efficiency across all its operations and arm's length bodies, including:

1. My appointment as the VFM Minister;
2. Benchmarking of back-office functions within sponsored bodies with over 250 staff;
3. Mapping and reviewing the current IT provision;
4. Securing collaborative procurement; and
5. Developing an estates strategy.

Formal training is available to both Ministers and Department officials should they identify a business need for it. Further to this, best practice is shared between officials, for example through networking events organised by HM Treasury and the National Audit Office.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* meetings he has had with representatives of (i) his Department's sponsored bodies and (ii) outside organisations or individuals and *(b)* events he has attended in his capacity as Secretary of State since June 2009. [296049]

Mr. Bradshaw: The meetings that I have had with representatives of (i) his Department's sponsored bodies and (ii) outside organisations or individuals are detailed on the DCMS website

www.culture.gov.uk

http://www.culture.gov.uk

The events I have attended in my capacity as Secretary of State since June 2009 are as follows:

Richard Long exhibition, Tate Britain
AEGON Tennis Championships
Art Prize Fund for Museums and Galleries
UK Music reception
Darwin Centre Launch
Wimbledon Championships
Launch of National School Sport week
Tate Britain summer reception
Visit to the Artist rooms and Oil Tank exhibition, Tate Modern
Rock the Boat
Serpentine Gallery Pavilion
Barber of Seville - Royal Opera House
Jerusalem - Royal Court
England -v- Australia test match
Latitude festival
Special event to celebrate the first quarter of ANLO figures with ACE at Royal Court
Visit to Celtic Manor resort in Newport
Opening of Corby swimming pool
Royal and Demgate Theatre in Northampton
Hamlet - Wyndhams theatre
Bayreuth festival in Germany
British Council - UK Young Creative Entrepreneur awards
Glyndebourne
Tour of Torre Abbey and Anthony Gormley exhibition in Torquay
Exeter -v- QPR
Modern Pentathlon Championships
Bigga Fish
British Youth Opera performance
Launch of Street Games
Manchester Velodrome
Contact Theatre - Manchester
Visit to Moss Side Millennium Powerhouse Library
Find Your Talent project in Liverpool
PL4Sport project in Liverpool
RTS convention in Cambridge
National Football Museum - Hall of Fame Award Dinner
London Fashion week - Carolyn Massey show
Visit to the BRIT school
Tristan und Isolde - Royal Opera House
Man Booker Prize awards 2009-10-26
2009 PM's Better Public Building Award and British Construction Industry awards
Othello project in Birmingham
School Sports Partnership conference
Electric Proms
The Turn of the Screw - ENO

Football Foundation: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in the forthcoming round of Football Foundation funding allocation; and if he will make a statement. [296542]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Both the Government and Sport England remain completely committed to the ongoing work of the Football Foundation and continuing to invest £15 million a year.

However, any funding decisions beyond 2011 will be subject to the next comprehensive spending review.

The 2009-10 funding agreement between Sport England and the Football Foundation for this year's £15 million investment has been agreed.

Sport England

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for which public bodies the sports division of his Department is responsible; which individuals his Department has appointed to each such body; and what the duration of appointment of each is. [296541]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Sport Team within the Department is responsible for the Football Licensing Authority, Sport England and UK Sport. The tables set out the individuals appointed to these bodies by Ministers, as regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. In addition, the Department is in the process of establishing UK Anti-Doping as the UK's independent national anti-doping organisation.

Football Licensing Authority

Name	*Role*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Terms*
Paul Darling	Chair	April 2009	September 2011	1
Brendon Batson MBE	Member	January 2007	January 2010	1
John Woodrow	Member	June 2004	May 2010	2
Julie Summerell	Member	January 2007	January 2010	1
James Dickie	Member	January 2007	January 2010	1

Football Licensing Authority

Name	*Role*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Terms*
Dr. Pauleen Lane CBE	Member	July 2009	July 2012	1
Ronald Wilkie	Member	July 2009	July 2012	1
Peter Rowley	Member	July 2009	July 2012	1
Derek Wilson	Member	July 2009	July 2012	1

Sport England

Name	*Role*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Terms*
Richard Lewis	Chair	April 2009	March 2013	1
Dr. Jack Rowell OBE	Member	January 2006	December 2009	2
Karren Brady	Member	March 2005	March 2010	2
Jill Ainscough	Member	April 2007	April 2010	1
Martin Thomas	Member	April 2007	April 2010	1
Philip Lemanski	Member	April 2007	April 2010	1
James Stewart	Member	April 2007	April 2010	1
Mich Stevenson OBE	Member	April 2007	April 2010	1
Michael Farrar CBE	Member	March 2005	March 2012	2

UK Sport

Name	*Role*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Terms*
Baroness Campbell CBE	Chair	March 2005	March 2013	2
Philip Carling	Member Wales	February 2004	January 2010	2
Louise Martin CBE	Member Scotland	June 2008	June 2011	1
Rodney Carr OBE	Member	September 2005	September 2011	2
Christopher Holmes MBE	Member	September 2005	September 2011	2
Jonathan Vickers	Member	October 2008	October 2011	1
Dominic Walsh	Member Northern Ireland	March 2008	March 2012	2
Nigel Walker MBA DL	Member	July 2006	July 2012	2
Philip Kimberley	Member	March 2009	March 2012	1
Richard Lewis	Member	May 2009	May 2012	1

UK Anti-Doping

Name	*Role*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Terms*
David Kenworthy	Chair	July 2009	February 2013	1

The recruitment of UK Anti-Doping board members is currently ongoing.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage school students to participate in competitive sport. [296819]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Competition is an integral part of the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People and the Government's commitment to offer every child aged five to 16 the chance to do five hours of PE and sport per week, with three hours for 16 to 19-year-olds.

Between 2008-11, Government are investing approximately £25.5 million into a new network of 225 Competition Managers (CMs), all of which have been recruited. The new network of CMs will provide better opportunities for young people to take part in competitive sport; and ensure that school-based opportunities are more integrated with national governing bodies' competition pathway priorities and club competitions. Their objective is to increase the number of young people engaged in regular high quality inter-school competitive events.

Government are also investing approximately £3 million between 2008-11 into an intra-school competition programme called 'yoURsport'. This is being implemented by the 450 school sport partnerships and is targeted at less sporty pupils to encourage them to participate in competitive sporting activity. The programme's objectives are to increase participation in intra-school competition for all young people aged 11 to 16, by providing a competitive experience which is appealing and accessible. The programme also provides opportunities for young leaders to deploy their leadership skills in organising, staging and officiating in intra-school competition for their peers.

Young Offenders: Princes Trust

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will provide funding to the partnership of the Prince's Trust and the Football Association football initiative in helping young adults in young offender institutions. [296046]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prince's Trust works with, and is funded by the Premier League, Professional Footballer's Association and the Football Foundation. The Football Association is currently not one of its partners.

The Government invest £15 million each year in the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports' charity. Funded by the Premier League, the Football Association and Government, the Foundation directs £40 million every year into improving grass roots sport facilities to help increase participation in football and other sports.

a key departmental priority, and address some of society's key challenges, such as social inclusion, health, education and equalities.

The Department has no current plans to provide direct funding to this initiative.

OLYMPICS

Domestic Christmas Trees

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been allocated for spending on *(a)* imported and *(b)* domestic Christmas trees for the main Olympic site in 2009. [293759]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 October 2009]*: None of the ODA's budget has been allocated to provide Christmas trees for the Olympic Park.

International Olympic Committee

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many officials from *(a)* her Office and *(b)* the Government Olympic Executive attended the International Olympic Committee conference in October 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [295294]

Tessa Jowell: No officials from my office or the Government Olympic Executive attended the International Olympic Committee congress in Copenhagen in October.

Olympic Games 2012: Barking and Dagenham

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. [294228]

Tessa Jowell: My officials consulted with CLG officials on the legacy proposals for the London borough of Barking and Dagenham in advance of the Olympic Board making final decisions in respect of the venues for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many Olympic construction contracts have been awarded to firms based *(a)* in Scotland, *(b)* in Wales, *(c)* in Northern Ireland, *(d)* in England and *(e)* elsewhere. [289486]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Games. To date in total 1,063 businesses, including those involved in construction, have won £5 billion of work directly supplying the ODA and hundreds more have won work in the supply chains.

The numbers of the ODA's direct suppliers by nation (according to their registered address) are as follows:

(a) Scotland: 17

(b) Wales: 4

(c) Northern Ireland: 3

(d) England: 1,022

(e) Outside UK: 17.

The ODA estimates that there is over £1 billion worth of direct procurement to be completed. This may be in the form of new contracts or amendments to existing contracts. These direct procurements will generate thousands of business opportunities in the supply chains. The ODA is currently conducting research in its supply chains with initial results due later this autumn. This will show the names of companies across the UK that are already benefiting from 2012-related work.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has had discussions with the *(a)* Olympic Delivery Authority and *(b)* Secretary of State for Defence on safety arrangements for the Olympic and Paralympic shooting event due to be held at the Royal Artillery Barracks in relation to (i) military personnel, (ii) the families of military personnel and (iii) the general public; and if she will make a statement. [294229]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) have agreed plans for hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic shooting events at the Royal Artillery Barracks with the Ministry of Defence. These plans will be submitted as part of the planning application in the coming weeks. Safety is paramount and has been at the forefront of discussions about the design for the venue.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the implications of the closure of a lane of the Blackwall Tunnel for the purposes of Olympic Family transport services for the fulfilment of the Olympic commitment on transport during the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [294233]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority and Transport for London are working on the detailed designs of the Olympic Route Network and will be consulting local residents and businesses over the coming months. As part of this work, all the implications of potential road or lane closures will be assessed in detail. This detailed design work will be completed next summer.

Olympic Games: China

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what expenditure the Olympic Delivery Authority incurred on *(a)* hospitality, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* other expenses in relation to attendance at the Beijing Olympics. [289242]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) incurred the following costs in attending the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Observer Programme:

	£
(a) Flights	57,350.40
(b) Accommodation	24,358.44

	£
(c) Other expenses	8,865.72
Total	90,574.56

This paid for 33 ODA staff to take up places on the accredited observer programme.

Attendees obtained valuable information to inform, for example, the detailed design of the venues and the management of the transport operations for which the ODA is responsible.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Voluntary Organisations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grants to voluntary groups Communitybuilders has made since January 2008. [293365]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 964W.

Council Housing: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of housing debt in each local authority. [292890]

Mr. Ian Austin: The assumed Housing Debt, the Subsidy Capital Financing Requirement, for each authority is calculated annually by my Department using data supplied by the local authorities themselves on their HRA Subsidy base data forms. The information is published, after consultation, in annual HRA Subsidy Determinations. The 2009-10 Determination is available on the Communities and Local Government website at this address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hrasubsidydeterminations0910

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* special and *(b)* policy advisers work for each Minister in his Department. [295701]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State is supported by two special advisers, and the Minister of Housing and Planning by one special adviser. All civil servants in the Department provide policy advice to Ministers as necessary.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on public expenditure, from which of his Department's capital programmes funds will be transferred as part of the £340 million anticipated capital underspends transfer. [292984]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government continues to monitor its capital programmes to identify any potential underspends for transfer to the £1.5 billion housing pledge announced in "Building Britain's Future".

Disabled Facilities Grants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Disabled Facilities Grant funding was *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received by each local authority in each year since 2001. [294094]

Mr. Ian Austin: Details of the level of funding for the Disabled Facilities Grant which the local authorities in England applied for since 2001 is available through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix and can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms

Details of the level of Disabled Facilities Grant received by each local authority in 2001-02 have been placed in the library of the House. Details of the level of Disabled Facilities Grant received by each local authority in England since 2002-03 can also be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.Uk/housing/supportandadaptations/housingadaptations/localauthoritydfgallocations

Employment Agencies

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many agency staff were employed by *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit, *(d)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(e)* his Department in each of the last 12 months. [296606]

John Healey: The tables show the number of agency staff employed by *(b)* the Tenants Services Authority, *(c)* the National Housing and Planning Unit, *(d)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(e)* Communities and Local Government in each of the last 12 months.

Figures for agency staff employed in each of the last 12 months by *(a)* the Homes and Community Agency are not available other than at disproportionate cost. Details of the average number of temporary staff they have employed will be published shortly in their annual report and accounts.

Tables showing agency staff employed in the last 12 months from October 2008 to September 2009

(a) Homes and Communities Agency

Figures for agency staff employed in each of the last 12 months by the Homes and Community Agency are not available other than at disproportionate cost. Details of the average number of temporary staff they have employed will be published shortly in their annual report and accounts.

(b) Tenants Services Authority

The TSA has provided figures for staff employed via a third party e.g. recruitment agency from 1 December to week ending 23 October.

	Number of agency staff
December 2008	19
January 2009	19
February 2009	25
March 2009	23
April 2009	19
May 2009	19
June 2009	18
July 2009	19
August 2009	18
September 2009	16
October 2009	15

(c) National Housing and Planning Unit

	Number of agency staff
October 2008	2
November 2008	2
December 2008	2
January 2009	0
February 2009	0
March 2009	0
April 2009	0
May 2009	0
June 2009	0
July 2009	0
August 2009	0
September 2009	0

(d) Homes and Communities Agency Academy

	Number of agency staff
October 2008	n/a
November 2008	n/a
December 2008	1
January 2009	1
February 2009	1.8
March 2009	1.8
April 2009	1.8
May 2009	1.8
June 2009	1.8
July 2009	2
August 2009	2
September 2009	2

(e) Communities and Local Government

	Number of agency staff
October 2008	155
November 2008	155
December 2008	178
January 2009	163
February 2009	161
March 2009	161
April 2009	162
May 2009	160
June 2009	156
July 2009	153
August 2009	138
September 2009	116

Fire Services: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to amend the Firefighters Pension Scheme entitlements in respect of high earners who are members of the scheme. [295787]

Barbara Follett: There are no current plans to introduce tiered contribution rates in the firefighters' pension schemes.

Government Office for the North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the Regional Director for the Government office for the north-west has visited Chorley since her appointment. [296365]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Regional Director has visited Chorley once since her appointment in February 2008. This was on 4 September 2009 to meet with Lancashire chief executives or their representatives.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many overseas visits the Regional Director for the Government office for the north-west has made since her appointment; and what the purpose was of each of the visits. [296366]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Regional Director for GONW has not made any overseas trips since her appointment in February 2008.

Government Office for the North West: Allowances

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Regional Director of the Government office for the north-west has claimed in travel and accommodation expenses in each year since her appointment. [296387]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Regional Director of the Government office for the north-west (GONW) is on detached duty from the Department for Communities and Local Government to GONW. In addition to travel expenses in the region, she therefore claims for rental of a one bedroom flat in central Manchester and return train tickets (standard class) for trips between Manchester and London most weekends. Details are in the following table:

£

	Financial year 2007-08	*Financial year 2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Business expenses[2]			
Accommodation	—	207.02	555.41
Travel	118.50	15,533.40	4,517.08
Total	118.50	15,740.42	5,072.49
Detached duty[3]			
Accommodation—Rent	—	10,760.00	5,950.00
Accommodation—Other	—	3,045.94	1,333.28
Travel	—	4,811.69	1,950.62
Total	0	18,617.63	9,233.90

[1] Year to date: April to September.
[2] Mainly in the north west region. This also includes frequent meetings in London, for example in connection with national roles on social exclusion and cohesion or Government Office Network business.
[3] Detached duty is a period of service at a new, temporary work place other than on permanent transfer.

Local Government: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average time was taken by Chorley borough council to pay invoices to their private business suppliers in each of the last 12 months. [296384]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 710W.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings the Regional Director of the Government office for the north-west has had with the *(a)* Chief Executive and *(b)* other officers of Chorley Borough Council in the last 12 months. [296386]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

(a) None

(b) None—however Chorley officials have been in larger regional or sub-regional meetings with the Regional Director.

Local Government: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to limit the pensions of members of the Local Government Pension Scheme who earn high salaries; what limits he intends to put in place; what estimate he has made of the effect on the Exchequer of introducing such limits in each of the next 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the *(a)* costs to and *(b)* savings for local government pension scheme funds in each of the next 10 years. [295678]

Barbara Follett: The benefit provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme are kept under regular review to ensure their affordability and fairness. Changes to the pension entitlements of any members, as set out in the scheme's regulatory framework, will be subject to statutory consultation in the usual way. The next actuarial valuation exercise takes place as at 31 March 2010. It will set future employer contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2011.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the average liability of businesses in London for business rates before the application of transitional relief in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [293159]

Barbara Follett: Estimates of the average liability of properties in London in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are respectively £20,600 and £22,600 (values rounded to the nearest hundred pounds). For 2010-11, the estimate is before transitional arrangements, inflation and other reliefs. For 2009-10, the estimate is before transitional arrangements and other reliefs but after inflation.

Estimates of the total number of properties and their total liability for business rates broken down by region, for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11, i.e. before and after revaluation, have been published in table 1 of the transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation consultation paper published on 8 July 2009 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

Planning Obligations: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish all correspondence between the Government office for the north-west and Chorley Borough Council on section 106 monies for Chorley in the last 12 months. [296385]

Mr. Ian Austin: At the request of my hon. Friend, Government office for the north-west sought information from Chorley borough council on Section 106 agreements and arranged a meeting on 30 July 2009 with him to discuss these. Details of all Section 106 monies were provided to my hon. Friend at this meeting. Subsequently Government office for the north-west sent a follow up e-mail to my hon. Friend and Chorley borough council clearing the matters arising from the meeting. The correspondence relating to Section 106 issues will be placed in the Library of the House.

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the current Regional Business Plan agreed between his Department and each regional assembly or successor body. [295652]

Mr. Ian Austin: Current Regional Business Plans are already publicly available on the website of the relevant Regional Assembly or successor body.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the mini-review of each regional spatial strategy was completed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of each such review. [296607]

Mr. Ian Austin: To date six regions have finalised RSS revisions which were published on the following dates:

	Region
12 May 2008	East of England
21 May 2008	Yorkshire and Humber
15 July 2008	North East
30 September2008	North West
12 March 2009	East Midlands
6 April 2009	South East

The West Midlands is taking a phased approach to the revision of its RSS:

Phase 1 covering the Black Country was finalised on 15 January 2008.

Phase 2 which covers wider housing issues among other things has been through an Examination in Public and the Secretary of State is currently considering the panel's report published in September. We expect to consult on any proposed changes in the new year and publish the final plan later in 2010.

The South West RSS was due to be finalised last summer. However in the light of a legal judgment on sustainability appraisal we have agreed to do some further work and consultation and aim to publish it in 2010.

Retail Trade: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to promote retail diversity through the planning system. [296342]

Mr. Ian Austin: Our draft Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Prosperous Communities (PPS4) requires local planning authorities to take steps to protect and where appropriate enhance consumer choice and diversity in their town centres.

We will be publishing the final PPS4 by the end of the year. Local authorities must take the PPS into account when preparing their local development frameworks and it may be material to decision on individual applications and appeals.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the outcomes of each of the projects undertaken on the basis of a successful bid in the shared equity competition his Department announced in Budget 2007. [296609]

John Healey: MyChoice HomeBuy and Ownhome were the shared equity loan providers appointed by the Homes and Communities Agency following the Budget 2007 announcement. Both have contributed successfully to the National Affordable Housing Programme, helping 3,926 and 799 households respectively into home ownership in 2008-09. Information on households assisted into low cost home ownership in 2009-10 will be released by the Homes and Communities Agency in due course.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1289W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission: manpower, how much of the interim staff costs are attributable to consultancy fees in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [296381]

Maria Eagle: None. The costs only relate to interim and agency staff who were employed by the Commission to support the delivery of its strategic priorities. Consultancy expenditure is recorded separately.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Government Assistance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what applications have been received from *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England and *(c)* Scotland for support from the Low Carbon Communities Challenge Fund; when he expects decisions to be taken on the distribution of resources from the fund; and what evaluation mechanisms are in place to ensure optimisation of sustainability in successful bids. [296999]

Joan Ruddock: The Low Carbon Communities Challenge is a two-year programme to provide financial and advisory support to 20 'test-bed' communities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that are seeking to cut carbon emissions. It does not cover communities in Scotland.

Applications for the Challenge will be received by 27 November for phase 1 applicants (applying for funding in 2009-10), and 30 December for phase 2 applicants (applying for funding in 2010-11). The final decision on the selection of communities will be made in January 2010. Phase 1 applicants will be notified at this point on the allocation of funding. Phase 2 applicants will be allocated funding during the financial year as they work up their spending plans.

We anticipate that Government will put in place a number of evaluation mechanisms. In doing so, we will engage closely with the selected communities so that the data are openly shared and so that the communities have the tools and opportunities to be active participants in the learning. The programme is likely to include:

Gathering hard data on energy use

Real time monitoring of energy use in selected households in the communities

Household surveys for gathering data on broader socio-economic and environmental behaviours

Facilitated events in each of the 20 communities.

Climate Change

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many scientists and academics who disagree with the theory of man-made climate change he has met in a ministerial capacity in the last 12 months. [292449]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not met climate sceptic scientists and academics in the last 12 months. However, the overwhelming consensus among climate scientists is that the case for human caused climate change that we are experiencing is unequivocal. This is the clear conclusion of the International Panel for Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report published in 2007.

Climate Change: Conferences

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking regarding sustainable alternatives for energy production in preparation for the forthcoming Copenhagen climate change conference. [296979]

Joan Ruddock: Energy production contributes the largest proportion of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Working with EU partners, the Government are pushing for an ambitious, effective and fair agreement in Copenhagen that will drive the development and diffusion of sustainable forms of energy production. In this context, the UK's low carbon transition plan represents a clear demonstration to other countries that we are serious about reducing emissions from our own energy production.

Consolidated Contractors Corporation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts Ministers and officials in his Department have had with the Consolidated Contractors Corporation (CCC Group) and its international offshoots in the last five years. [294380]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The Department for Energy and Climate Change has of course only been in existence for just over a year. We have no records within DECC of any contact with this group.

Wind Power: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in how many Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty there are planning applications for *(a)* wind farms and *(b)* related electricity cables. [296323]

Mr. Kidney: There are currently seven planning applications for *(a)* wind farms in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in England and Northern Ireland. There are no current planning applications relating to AONBs in Wales. There are no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Scotland.

I can confirm that the Department has received no applications for *(b)* overhead line works associated with wind farm developments of 50 megawatts (MW) and above in AONBs in England and Wales. There are also no applications affecting AONBs in Northern Ireland.

Applications for electricity cables related to wind farms of less than 50 megawatts (MW) in England and Wales would be considered by the relevant local planning authority and DECC does not maintain information on such applications.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* 10 to 12, *(b)* 13 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17 year olds were (i) cautioned and (ii) prosecuted for alcohol-related offences in each police force area in each of the last five years. [294181]

Alan Johnson: Information showing the number of offenders cautioned and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for alcohol-related offences in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) broken down by age and police force area, can be viewed in Tables 1,2 and 3 placed in the House Library. Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) may also be issued for certain alcohol-related offences. The number of PNDs issued for alcohol-related offences from 2004 to 2007 were introduced to all police force areas in 2004.

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Places

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* anti-social behaviour orders, *(b)* penalty notices for disorder and *(c)* police cautions have been issued for on-street drinking in (i) North Yorkshire, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [295748]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of offenders cautioned for on-street drinking offences in the North Yorkshire Police Force area, the Yorkshire and Humberside region and England from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in Table 1.

Information showing the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued in the North Yorkshire Police Force area, the Yorkshire and Humberside region and England from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in Table 2. The PND scheme was rolled out to all Police Forces during 2004.

Data on the number of ASBOs issued held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform does not include information detailing the specific nature of the antisocial behaviour which resulted in the court issuing the ASBO. This could be determined only by examining individual court files which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for on-street drinking[2] in North Yorkshire Police Force Area, Yorkshire and Humberside region[3] and England, 1997 to 2007[4, 5]

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
140/01	North Yorkshire Police Force Area	26	25	51	99	191	204	268	111	87	119	70
141/01	Yorkshire and Humberside Region[3]	1,592	1,866	1,990	1,992	1,890	1,854	2,220	1,314	642	991	982
140/11	England	23,253	20,882	18,489	16,599	15,351	15,014	16,977	12,358	7,497	4,916	5,095

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12.
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.
Offences relating to the Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12.

[3] Covers the following Police Force Areas:
North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Humberside.

[4] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for on-street drinking[1] in North Yorkshire Police Force Area, Yorkshire and Humberside region[2] and England, 2004 to 2007[3, 4]

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North Yorkshire Police Force Area	480	810	1,024	1,113
Yorkshire and Humberside Region[1]	3,722	5,835	8,392	7,578
England[5]	28,455	38,499	43,842	47,591

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12.
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.
Offences relating to the Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12,
[2] Covers the following Police Force Areas:
North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Humberside.
[3] The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Excludes British Transport Police.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Antisocial Behaviour

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of anti-social behaviour there have been in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England in each year since 2003; and how many of those reported cases have led to (i) the issuing of an anti-social behaviour order, (ii) a community sentence, (iii) a custodial sentence, (iv) a police caution and (v) any other form of judicial sentencing. [295746]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not held centrally. Reports of antisocial behaviour are usually reported to the police, local authority, landlord or other frontline agency whose task it is to deal directly with that problem. Information on the use of all the antisocial behaviour tools and powers nationally is available on the antisocial behaviour website:

http://www.asb.homeoffice.gov.uk/uploadedFiles/Members_site/Documents_and_images/Resources/CDRP.pdf

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been made in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [296108]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) is collected by the Home Office through a voluntary survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) use of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. The latest published data indicate that at least 450 ABCs were made in Staffordshire between October 2003 and September 2008, of which 75 were issued in Tamworth during the same period.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Newport East constituency since 1998. [295929]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. The latest available data on the number of ASBOs issued cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007. These data are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2007, a total of 783 ASBOs were issued at all courts in Wales.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Young People

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued to young people aged between 13 and 19 years old in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [296368]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued to young people (defined as being 10-17 years old at the date of appearance in court) at all courts in England, the North East region and Cleveland, in each of the years during the period 2003-07 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

ASBO data are not available centrally below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued to juveniles[1] at all courts in the Cleveland Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, the North East region and England, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2007

Geographical area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cleveland	9	15	28	32	27
North East[2]	26	64	102	76	49
England	598	1,291	1,493	971	869

[1] Juveniles are defined as being 10-17 years old at the date of appearance in court.
[2] The north-east Government office region comprises the Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria Criminal Justice System areas.
Notes:
1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Antisocial Behaviour: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of anti-social behaviour there were in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 in Norwich, North constituency. [296016]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not held centrally.

Incidents of antisocial behaviour are usually reported to the police, local authority, landlord or other frontline agency whose task it is to deal directly with that problem.

Crime: Business

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what eligibility criteria are used to assess applications for grants from the Small Retailers Grant Fund; and if he will make a statement. [296076]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The eligibility criteria for the Small Retailers Capital Grants Fund are detailed in the Guidance Notes available on the grant administrator's website at:

http://grantsadmin.co.uk/smallretailerscapitalfund/

Crime: Young People

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed by under 25 year olds in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008 in Norwich, North constituency. [296017]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. From the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office it is not possible to identify the age of the alleged offender.

Departmental Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees in his Department and its agencies in England and Wales were subject to basic disclosure checks undertaken by Disclosure Scotland in each year since 2002. [294161]

Alan Johnson: The 'Disclosure Scotland' checks were introduced in the Home Office in November 2008; therefore, no checks were undertaken before then. In 2008, a total of 83 permanent members of staff and 180 contractors were checked through 'Disclosure Scotland'. In 2009 (up to 16 October 2009), 1,001 permanent staff and 2,060 contractors were checked. This information will probably include employees and contractors based in Scotland and Northern Ireland as our records are unable to differentiate between areas of the country for these particular data.

Additionally, this information relates to the core Home Office, UK Border Agency, Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service. It does not include non-departmental government bodies which the Home Office may 'sponsor'.

Detection Rates

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate was for *(a)* all offences, *(b)* violence against the person, *(c)* sexual offences, *(d)* robbery, *(e)* burglary, *(f)* drug offences and *(g)* criminal damage in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of detections in each such case was recorded on the issuing of a (i) charge or summons, (ii) caution, (iii) offence taken into consideration and (iv) penalty notice for disorder. [294330]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is given in the table.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstance. In terms of offences detected by the police, the preferred measure is now to use sanction detections.

Detection rates are a ratio of crime detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in period have eventually been detected.

Detection rates for selected offence groups in England and Wales

		Percentage of detections detected by:					
Financial year and offence group	*Detection rate (percentage)*[1]	*Charge/summons*	*Caution*	*Offences taken into consideration*	*Penalty notice for disorder*	*Cannabis warnings*	*Non-sanction detections (percentage)*
Total crime							
2000-01	23	58	17	8	n/a	n/a	18
2001-02	22	59	16	8	n/a	n/a	17
2002-03[2,3]	23	57	15	8	n/a	n/a	20
2003-04	23	56	16	8	0	n/a	21
2004-05	26	50	18	7	1	2	22
2005-06	27	48	21	8	7	4	13
2006-07	27	47	24	8	9	6	6
2007-08	28	49	26	8	9	8	0
2008-09	28	52	24	8	8	8	0

Detection rates for selected offence groups in England and Wales

Financial year and offence group	*Detection rate (percentage)*[1]	*Percentage of detections detected by:* Charge/summons	Caution	Offences taken into consideration	Penalty notice for disorder	Cannabis warnings	*Non-sanction detections (percentage)*
Violence against the person							
2000-01	57	55	14	0	n/a	n/a	30
2001-02	56	58	14	0	n/a	n/a	28
2002-03[2,3]	54	53	13	0	n/a	n/a	33
2003-04	50	51	14	0	1	n/a	34
2004-05	53	47	16	0	5	n/a	32
2005-06	54	46	22	0	11	n/a	21
2006-07	51	48	29	0	14	n/a	9
2007-08	49	53	33	0	14	n/a	0
2008-09	47	58	31	0	11	n/a	0
Sexual offences							
2000-01	43	68	8	1	n/a	n/a	23
2001-02	43	71	8	1	n/a	n/a	20
2002-03[2,3]	39	71	9	1	n/a	n/a	19
2003-04	36	71	10	1	0	n/a	18
2004-05	34	71	11	1	0	n/a	17
2005-06	35	72	13	3	0	n/a	11
2006-07	32	75	16	1	0	n/a	7
2007-08	31	80	18	1	0	n/a	1
2008-09	32	82	17	1	0	n/a	1
Robbery							
2000-01	17	80	4	5	n/a	n/a	11
2001-02	16	82	3	6	n/a	n/a	10
2002-03[2,3]	19	83	2	5	n/a	n/a	9
2003-04	19	84	3	5	0	n/a	8
2004-05	20	78	3	5	0	n/a	13
2005-06	18	86	4	5	0	n/a	5
2006-07	19	89	4	5	0	n/a	2
2007-08	20	91	4	5	0	n/a	0
2008-09	21	92	3	5	0	n/a	0
Burglary							
2000-01	11	55	5	30	n/a	n/a	10
2001-02	12	56	4	32	n/a	n/a	9
2002-03[2,3]	12	54	4	34	n/a	n/a	8
2003-04	13	54	4	34	0	n/a	8
2004-05	13	51	6	35	0	n/a	9
2005-06	14	49	7	40	0	n/a	5
2006-07	14	47	8	43	0	n/a	3
2007-08	13	50	7	42	0	n/a	0
2008-09	13	50	6	44	0	n/a	0
Drug offences							
2000-01	89	57	38	0	n/a	n/a	6
2001-02	92	56	37	0	n/a	n/a	7
2002-03[2,3]	93	55	37	0	n/a	n/a	8
2003-04	93	53	35	0	0	n/a	12
2004-05	95	41	36	0	0	20	3
2005-06	95	35	24	0	0	37	3
2006-07	95	32	22	0	0	44	2
2007-08	95	30	22	0	0	48	0
2008-09[4]	95	32	21	0	0	46	0
Criminal damage							
2000-01	13	51	20	3	n/a	n/a	25

Detection rates for selected offence groups in England and Wales

		Percentage of detections detected by:					
Financial year and offence group	*Detection rate (percentage)*[1]	*Charge/summons*	*Caution*	*Offences taken into consideration*	*Penalty notice for disorder*	*Cannabis warnings*	*Non-sanction detections (percentage)*
2001-02	12	52	21	3	n/a	n/a	24
2002-03[2,3]	13	51	19	2	n/a	n/a	28
2003-04	13	49	21	3	0	n/a	28
2004-05	14	46	24	3	2	n/a	25
2005-06	15	44	28	4	8	n/a	17
2006-07	15	42	32	[illegible]	13	n/a	8
2007-08	14	45	37	5	13	n/a	0
2008-09	14	50	35	5	10	n/a	0

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] In 2008-09 this includes a small number of Youth Restorative Disposals submitted to the Home Office as part of a pilot scheme and which are included in with non-sanction detections.

[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002.

[3] Includes British Transport Police from 2002-03.

[4] Since January 2009, PNDs can be given for cannabis possession. Up until the end of March 2009, PNDs were counted together with cannabis warnings.

Domestic Violence: Arrests

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets for arrest rates for incidents of domestic violence have been set for police forces. [295758]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No targets are set for police forces on arrest rates for incidents of domestic violence.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths have been caused by dangerous driving due to the use of a mobile telephone in *(a)* England, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency since 1997. [296448]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally. While the Home Office collects statistics on the number of recorded offences of causing death by dangerous driving, no details are held on the individual circumstances surrounding each offence.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions officials of his Department have had with the British Parking Association on wheel clamping on private land. [295881]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 28 October 2009]*: Officials of the Home Office and the Security Industry Authority (SIA) met with representatives of the British Parking Association (BPA) in April of this year. In addition, the SIA has met or been in contact with the BPA on a number of occasions about the emerging plans for regulation of the vehicle immobilisation industry.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent to date in *(a)* the establishment and *(b)* the operation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority in (i) total and (ii) by (A) staff, (B) information technology, (C) legal, (D) administrative and (E) other costs; and if he will make a statement. [294075]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office is responsible for the implementation of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS), which includes the establishment and operation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). However, the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families are the policy leads and provide the funding for the scheme.

The ISA was formally vested in January 2008 and began operational work in March 2008. The costs of establishing the ISA prior to vesting are £9.87 million.

ISA expenditure for 2007-08 and for 2008-09 is set out in the following table.

Establishment cost includes the development of interim IT, a proportionate cost of the full solution at March 2009, and the cost of fitting out Stephenson House, the ISA head office. IT running cost represents the cost of supporting the interim solution. The expenditure figures do not include the costs of other bodies whose functions include, but are not exclusively, support for the establishment, operation and monitoring of the ISA. They do not include estimates of expenditure in the current year which are yet to be audited.

ISA costs

		£000
	2007-08	*2008-09*
(a) Establishment cost	9,870	3,926
(b) Running costs:		
A) Staff	83	5,721
B) IT	0	284
C) Legal	0	142
D) Administrative	12	1,493
E) Other costs	63	845
	158	8,485

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter dated 7 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton concerning Ms Martina Palfrey. [294726]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 15 October 2009.

Passports: Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for offences of fraud in relation to passports there were in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the East of England region, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last 10 years. [296072]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* The Identity and Passport Service did not separately record details on convictions for offences of fraud prior to the introduction of its Fraud Casework and Management Information system in April 2005. The number of convictions recorded by IPS from then onwards are as follows:

Financial year	*Convictions*
2005-06	12
2006-07	55
2007-08	9
2008-09	6

It is not possible to obtain any further breakdown by region or specific location. In those cases when IPS receives notification of a conviction from a court, or the police, the information provided states the name of the court only.

Proceeds of Crime: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of assets *(a)* seized and *(b)* frozen under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each police force area in the East of England in each year since 2002. [296037]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested. The value of cash forfeiture orders and confiscation orders obtained by each police force in the eastern region from 2003-04 is set out in the table. The police can obtain forfeiture orders in the magistrates courts following the seizure of cash which they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is the proceeds of crime or intended for use in crime. Confiscation orders are made in the Crown court. The enforcement of confiscation orders is essentially a matter for HM Courts Service.

Value of cash forfeiture orders and confiscation orders obtained by police forces in the East of England

		Value (£)
Bedfordshire Police		
2003-04	Cash Forfeitures	0
	Confiscation	3,403,388
2004-05	Cash Forfeitures	23,321
	Confiscation	131,661
2005-06	Cash Forfeitures	38,601
	Confiscation	233,589
2006-07	Cash Forfeitures	79,556
	Confiscation	321,707
2007-08	Cash Forfeitures	197,833
	Confiscation	1,082,192
2008-09	Cash Forfeitures	243,873
	Confiscation	986,774
Cambridgeshire Constabulary		
2003-04	Cash Forfeitures	0
	Confiscation	278,675
2004-05	Cash Forfeitures	21,345
	Confiscation	2,674,080
2005-06	Cash Forfeitures	62,208
	Confiscation	156,358
2006-07	Cash Forfeitures	108,524
	Confiscation	863,759
2007-08	Cash Forfeitures	106,083
	Confiscation	1,345,645
2008-09	Cash Forfeitures	26,801
	Confiscation	1,022,831
Essex Police		
2003-04	Cash Forfeitures	0
	Confiscation	381,443
2004-05	Cash Forfeitures	863,019
	Confiscation	289,269
2005-06	Cash Forfeitures	790,484
	Confiscation	523,381
2006-07	Cash Forfeitures	662,259
	Confiscation	837,593
2007-08	Cash Forfeitures	426,874
	Confiscation	339,581
2008-09	Cash Forfeitures	280,768
	Confiscation	907,359
Hertfordshire Constabulary		
2003-04	Cash Forfeitures	0
	Confiscation	929,366
2004-05	Cash Forfeitures	41,175
	Confiscation	246,432
2005-06	Cash Forfeitures	22,711
	Confiscation	912,879
2006-07	Cash Forfeitures	655,103
	Confiscation	558,882
2007-08	Cash Forfeitures	289,059
	Confiscation	2,765,352
2008-09	Cash Forfeitures	241,348
	Confiscation	1,242,962
Norfolk Constabulary		
2003-04	Cash Forfeitures	0
	Confiscation	89,326

Value of cash forfeiture orders and confiscation orders obtained by police forces in the East of England

		Value (£)
2004-05	Cash Forfeitures	59,735
	Confiscation	849,764
2005-06	Cash Forfeitures	96,332
	Confiscation	3,187,861
2006-07	Cash Forfeitures	28,324
	Confiscation	261,939
2007-08	Cash Forfeitures	34,977
	Confiscation	2,414,489
2008-09	Cash Forfeitures	17,197
	Confiscation	758,807
Suffolk Constabulary		
2003-04	Cash Forfeitures	0
	Confiscation	136,787
2004-05	Cash Forfeitures	45,980
	Confiscation	320,374
2005-06	Cash Forfeitures	27,824
	Confiscation	638,468
2006-07	Cash Forfeitures	11,435
	Confiscation	457,050
2007-08	Cash Forfeitures	134,263
	Confiscation	823,291
2008-09	Cash Forfeitures	144,841
	Confiscation	593,213

Telecommunications: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of communications covered by the current interception of communications data procedures; and what estimate he has made of the likely proportion of coverage in each of the next 10 years should the Interception Modernisation Programme *(a)* go ahead and *(b)* not go ahead. [295824]

Alan Johnson: I have written to the hon. Member with information relating to this answer.

Terrorism

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been convicted of an offence under section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [296545]

Mr. Hanson: Data relating to the number convicted under Terrorism Legislation since 2001 are contained in the following Home Office Bulletin: Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain—11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008. The bulletin shows that nine people have been convicted for offences under section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been convicted of an offence under section *(a)* 56 and *(b)* 59 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [296544]

Mr. Hanson: Data relating to the number convicted under Terrorism Legislation since 2001 are contained in the following Home Office Bulletin: Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain—11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008. The number of individuals convicted under section 56 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is grouped together with those convicted under section 54 of that act. The bulletin shows that one person has been convicted under these sections of the legislation. Furthermore, seven people have been convicted of offences under section 59 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Terrorism: Arrests

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* prosecuted for inciting terrorism overseas in each year since 2000. [296153]

Alan Johnson: Individuals suspected of terrorism offences are arrested under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and not by specific offence. The Home Office does not hold specific data relating to the number of individuals arrested on suspicion of inciting acts of terrorism overseas. A total of 10 people have been charged with inciting acts of terrorism (under section 59 of the Terrorism Act 2000) since 2001. The breakdown of these figures is as follows:

in 2001-02 there were 0 charges;
in 2002-03 there were 0 charges;
in 2003-04 one person was charged;
in 2004-05 there were 0 charges;
in 2005-06 three people were charged;
in 2006-07 one person was charged; and
in 2007-2008 five people were charged.

Data relating to the numbers arrested and charged under Terrorism Legislation since 2001 are contained in the following Home Office Bulletin Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain—11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008.

Terrorism: Convictions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted under Section 57(4)(a) of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since 2001; and what the sentence was in each case. [296152]

Alan Johnson: Section 57 (4) (a) relates to the penalty for offences under section 57. A total of 22 people have been convicted of offences under section 57 of the Terrorism Act 2000 since 2001. The breakdown of these figures is as follows:

in 2001-02 there were 0 convictions;
in 2002-03 five people were convicted;
in 2003-04 two people were convicted;
in 2004-05 one person was convicted;
in 2005-06 five people were convicted;
in 2006-07 eight people were convicted; and
in 2007-2008 one person was convicted.

Data relating to the numbers convicted under Terrorism Legislation since 2001 are contained in the following Home Office Bulletin Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain—11 September 2001 to

31 March 2008. Data relating to sentencing for those convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 are not recorded in a way which shows the sentence passed for offences under section 57.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted under counter-terrorism legislation of fundraising in each of the last five years. [296154]

Mr. Hanson: A total of 10 people have been convicted of fundraising offences (under sections 15-19 of the Terrorism Act 2000). The breakdown of these figures for the last five years is as follows: in 2003-04 there were 0 convictions; in 2004-05 there were 0 convictions; in 2005-06 four people were convicted; in 2006-07 one person was convicted; and, in 2007-08 three people were convicted. Data relating to the numbers arrested and charged under terrorism legislation since 2001 is contained in the Home Office Bulletin: Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain—11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in Birmingham, Northfield constituency completed an apprenticeship in each year since 2004. [296272]

Kevin Brennan: Apprenticeship Starts for 2003/04 to 2007/08 were published in a statistical first release (SFR) on 25 June:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrjun09

Supplementary table 5.1 shows apprenticeship starts by constituency, local authority, Government office region and England for 2003/04 to 2007/08. Provisional full-year figures for 2008/09 were published in a statistical first release on 22 October:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09

Supplementary geographic breakdowns will be available shortly after the main release.

Broadband

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what areas of *(a)* England and *(b)* North Yorkshire receive broadband over the BT network but cannot receive digital subscriber line at a speed of at least 512kBits/s. [291983]

Mr. Timms: The Department does not have this information.

Broadband: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase access to broadband services in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire. [296750]

Mr. Timms: We have recently set up the Network Design and Procurement Company as we pledged to do in the Digital Britain Report. The company will be responsible for procuring the upgrade and replacement works to deliver the universal service commitment (USC) for 2Mbps to virtually every community by 2012 and, in due course, the administration of the Next Generation Fund outlined in the Digital Britain White Paper.

On take up of broadband and digital inclusion the Government have also appointed Martha Lane Fox as our digital inclusion champion. Her role will be to find ways of helping people without previous experience of computers to develop the skills needed to make use of the internet in order to take advantage of the benefits it offers.

Business Links: Sick Leave

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff of Business Link have taken time off work as a result of a diagnosis of stress in each of the last five years. [291969]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 'Staff of Business Link' encompasses people who are directly employed in the provision of the Business Link service, by RDAs and their Business Link providers. 'Time off work' has been defined as statutory-recorded sick leave. 'Diagnosis of stress' has been defined as individuals self-certifying as having a stress related illness and individuals whose doctors have signed them off from work with a diagnosis of stress.

Comprehensive national data can only be provided for the year 2008-09 when all RDAs had completed the re-contracting exercise to the current network of Business Link providers. To gather data before 2008/09 would incur disproportionate costs. The number of Business Link staff who have taken time off work as a result if a diagnosis of stress in 2008/09 was 33.

Business: Government Assistance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what deadlines have been set for repayment of loans offered under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme. [294586]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Any facilities offered by lenders and secured under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee should be repaid within the terms agreed between the borrower and the lender up to but not exceeding the maximum period permitted for that particular loan facility.

EFG supports bank lending to businesses with an annual turnover of up to £25 million seeking loans of £1,000 through to £1 million, repayable over a period of between three months and 10 years.

The overdraft borrowing guarantee top-up and the invoice finance guarantee top-up introduced on 30 September 2009 is limited to a maximum repayment term of two and three years respectively.

Accredited EFG lenders have the discretion to agree capital repayment holidays where they deem appropriate.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what conditions loans are offered to businesses under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme. [294587]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are three main conditions for a business being offered an EFG loan application:

The business meeting the lender's normal commercial criteria in relation to the viability of the business and serviceability of the loan. This judgment will vary according to the lender concerned.

The lender determining that use of EFG, rather than a normal commercial loan, is necessary because of no or insufficient security available on the part of the business.

The business meeting the basic EFG eligibility criteria.

Each lender has access to the EFG web portal through which they administer the EFG eligibility criteria. The main EFG eligibility criteria, with respect to the size of loan, purpose of loan, turnover size, business sector, etc., is detailed on the BIS website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/enterprise/finance/efg/page37607.html

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the reasons for which businesses which were offered loans under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme did not draw down those loans. [294588]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Businesses granted loan facilities backed by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee are given six months within which to draw down the facilities offered.

The current conversion rate from offered to drawn loans exceeds 80 per cent. and is expected to rise. Given the scheme was launched in January, it is too early to make any comprehensive assessment of the reasons behind a few businesses deciding not to draw down loans offered under the scheme.

Further Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the KPMG report for the Learning and Skills Council on learner success rates in further education. [296243]

Kevin Brennan: This is a Learning and Skills Council (LSC) report, commissioned by the LSC/Ofsted Joint Consultative Committee. KPMG were technical advisers for the report. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Further Education: Finance

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria the Learning and Skills Council requested its consultants to apply in evaluating bids by further education colleges for capital funding. [295836]

Kevin Brennan: In line with Sir Andrew Foster's recommendations, the Learning and Skills Council consulted with the FE sector through a reference panel of college principals convened by the Association of Colleges on the best approach to prioritise projects.

The first stage of prioritisation was 'readiness' to identify those projects sufficiently developed to be able to start work immediately in the autumn.

Projects which passed through the readiness gateway were then assessed against the following prioritisation criteria:

Education and skills impact

Contribution to local economic and regeneration priorities

Co-dependency with third parties

Condition of estate

Value for money.

The LSC has published on its website full details of the Lambert Smith Hampton readiness report and the results of the PricewaterhouseCoopers prioritisation exercise. It can be found at:

http://propertyservices.lsc.gov.uk/other/

Higher Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of university students had not received payments due to them from Student Finance England before the start of the academic year 2009-10; what average length of time elapsed from the start of the academic year until receipt of payments for such students; and if he will make a statement. [293048]

Mr. Lammy: Payments of maintenance grant and loan to higher education students are not made until they have registered on their course and the higher education institution has told the Student Loans Company. Registrations take place throughout September and October.

The Student Loans Company will shortly release figures to show the levels of processing and payment of student support in England for the 2009/10 academic year.

The releases will include the following information:

Total applications received

Applications approved

Applications currently being processed

Ineligible/withdrawn applications

Applications started online but not completed

Further information required from student/sponsors

Students receiving first maintenance payment.

The first release of this information will be on 27 October 2009, and this will cover the processing and payment up to and including 18 October. This will be followed by a further two updates at weekly intervals. The information will be made available on the Student Loans Company website.

All eligible students who applied by the deadline had payments approved; some were interim payments. Those who have received an interim payment, but have provided the correct evidence by the end of August, will receive any additional payments they are entitled to by the end of October.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students studying for higher education qualifications concerning *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biology and *(d)* media studies. [296539]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures for postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments in physics, chemistry, biology and media studies are shown in the table.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2010.

Enrolments[1] in physics, chemistry, biology and media studies by level of study UK higher education institutions: 2007-08

	Level of study	
Subject of Study	*Postgraduate*	*Undergraduate*
Physics	3,515	11,355
Chemistry	4,550	14,265
Biology	4,340	22,020
Media studies	2,880	25,205

[1] Covers students of all domiciles enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Internet: Computer Viruses

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government are taking to protect UK internet users from computer viruses and malicious software. [294926]

Mr. Timms: The Government acknowledge that viruses and malware are a significant problem for UK internet users. We have supported initiatives—in particular Get Safe Online—that encourage users to adopt technological measures and good on-line behaviour to avoid becoming victims.

This was a theme that was also covered in the Digital Britain Report. The report announced the creation of a Tripartite Initiative between Government, business and law enforcement to work together to tackle low level crime. It also announced new activity by the Office of Fair Trading to deal with scams conducted through the internet. Law enforcement officials work with banks and the internet industry to identify the sources of the problems, seeking to have such sites removed and to identify those responsible.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have traded in their cars under the car scrappage scheme in the West Midlands since the introduction of the scheme. [296196]

Ian Lucas: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 15,190 completed scrappage transactions in the West Midlands.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many car dealerships have accepted cars under the car scrappage scheme in the West Midlands since the introduction of the scheme. [296197]

Ian Lucas: There are 401 car dealerships in the West Midlands which have accepted claims under the car scrappage scheme.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans there are for the future of the car scrappage scheme; and if he will make a statement. [296198]

Ian Lucas: On 28 September 2009 the Government announced plans for a further £100 million of funding for the scheme. This would mean that the scheme will cover up to 400,000 transactions. It will come to an end on 28 February 2010 or when the funding runs out, whichever is the sooner.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the additional revenue accruing to the motor industry as a result of the car scrappage scheme since the introduction of the scheme. [296199]

Ian Lucas: A BIS assessment of the UK scrappage scheme has estimated a short term stimulus to the value of UK vehicles sales worth approximately £2.1 billion. On 28 September 2009 the Government announced an extension to the scheme. The revised cumulative figure is currently expected to be £2.8 billion by the time the scheme comes to an end.

National Economic Council Sub-Committee on Better Regulation

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what *(a)* regulations and *(b)* other proposals for new regulation the National Economic Council Sub-Committee on Better Regulation has considered since its establishment; [294078]

(2) how many times the National Economic Council Sub-Committee on Better Regulation has reported to the National Economic Council its conclusions on *(a)* regulation and *(b)* proposals for new regulation since its establishment; [294079]

(3) how many times the National Economic Council Sub-Committee on Better Regulation has met since April 2009. [294081]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills: Thurrock

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the funding package for the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in Thurrock; and if he will make a statement. [295803]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* The NSA Creative and Cultural has a key role to play in the regeneration of the Thames Gateway through transforming the delivery of skills to meet business needs in this important sector. It will be play a valuable role in the development of technician skills in the Performing Arts in the run up to the 2012 Olympics and will provide a centre of excellence in these skills not available elsewhere. I discussed the Creative and Cultural National Skills Academy with my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) the then Minister for Culture and Tourism, during the recess.

Quantum Technology Partnership

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the proposed Quantum Technology Partnership in South Worcestershire; what involvement *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the regional development agency have had with the project; and if he will make a statement. [293755]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* The Quantum Technology Partnership is intended to bring together QinetiQ, universities and industry to create a world class centre for the industrial exploitation of quantum technology research. AWM has been working with the partners to develop the project over the past 12 months. The agency has employed a specialist project manager to support the partners, and has also commissioned economic impact work and contributed to the costs of some of the property aspects of the project.

In January AWM received an application for funding of up to £10 million towards the project. The project received outline approval on 6 August 2009 and a full application is expected to be received for appraisal later this month. Subject to satisfactory appraisal and approval by the Agency's Investment Decision Group a funding agreement could be in place in January 2010.

The partners have also sought funding from BIS; the Department is exploring funding opportunities with AWM.

Spaceflight

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had on the development of a UK Space Agency in the last two years. [296535]

Mr. Lammy: In the last two years my Department has held no formal discussions on the development of a UK Space Agency.

A public consultation on the funding and management of UK civil space activities has just closed. Respondents were asked to state whether there is there a case for considering different institutional arrangements for funding and managing UK civil space activities and if so, what possible alternative models might the Government consider. Officials are considering the responses to the consultation and will report to Lord Drayson this year.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Government spent directly or through indirect support for projects relating to space exploration in the latest year for which figures are available; and how much it intends to spend in the next 12 months. [296537]

Mr. Lammy: The UK, through the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), participates in the Aurora robotic space exploration programme of the European Space Agency (ESA).

In 2008-09, the UK spent a total of £14.6 million on the programme directly in the UK and through subscription to ESA. In 2009-10 the UK is expected to spend £16.1 million on the programme. Expenditure for 2010-11 is subject to a future decision by STFC.

Students: Grants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students received non-repayable maintenance grants from *(a)* Richmond-upon-Thames education authority and *(b)* all English local education authorities in each of the last five years; and what the average grant received by such students was in each case in each of the last five years. [294754]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows.

Students awarded grants in academic years 2004-05 to 2008-09 (provisional)[1]

Academic year	*Number of students awarded grants*	*Average (£)*
Richmond-upon-Thames		
2004-05	470	1,040
2005-06	780	1,010
2006-07	1,110	1,550
2007-08	1,390	1,860
2008-09[2]	1,440	2,240
England		
2004-05	127,000	1,170
2005-06	215,000	1,120
2006-07	333,000	1,660
2007-08	404,000	2,000
2008-09[2]	453,000	2,290

[1] Figures cover the higher education grant, the maintenance grant and grants and allowances for children and dependents.

[2] Provisional 2008/09 data at mid-November 2008. Figures may change as later applications are processed.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Grant figures in the table cover the higher education grant, introduced in 2004, the maintenance grant, phased in from 2006, and grants and allowances for children and dependants. Different amounts are available for each type of grant. Figures contain students in each year of their courses. The amount a student receives depends on household income, year of entry to higher education and personal circumstances.

Students: Loans

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Student Loans Company (SLC) on its research on the number of students expected to enter higher education in autumn 2009; and what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of SLC staffing levels to deal with that number of applications. [292486]

Mr. Lammy: The financial settlement requested by the Student Loans Company (SLC) for financial year 2009-10 assumed an additional 24,000 applications would be received in academic year 2009-10 compared to the previous year. The Department met SLC's 2009-10 financial settlement in full, providing all of the £6.9 million additional costs identified by the Company—including £993,000 specifically to process the expected 24,000 additional applications. Subsequently, the Department provided a further £230,000 following a request from the company to help deal with the larger than expected number of telephone calls received during August to October.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Student Loans Company on the robustness of its complaints system. [292487]

Mr. Lammy: It is important that the Student Loans Company has sound arrangements for dealing with complaints. My officials were involved in the recent review of complaints handling undertaken by the company. In May 2009, I appointed four new assessors to offer independent and impartial decisions on cases that are not resolved within the company. In June 2009, I set performance targets for the company relating to handling of complaints as part of a broad set of robust performance measures.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received concerning the operation of the Student Loans Company; and if he will make a statement. [292488]

Mr. Lammy: I have had a number of representations from customers having difficulty in contacting the Student Loans Company to enquire about their applications for student support for the 2009-10 academic year because the Company has received more telephone calls than it can answer. The SLC has put in place a number of measures to help students follow the progress of their applications, and to address the problems people have had when trying to get through to their call centres. These include: creating 70 per cent. additional telephone lines; adding 144 staff to answer phones, as well as more staff working overtime at the SLC and its outsource providers, increasing call centre operating capacity by around 35 per cent.; reminding students that they can check the status of their application online; and making improvements to answers to the most common enquiries on the internet, and directing callers to these via a recorded telephone message.

The Student Loans Company will shortly release figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009-10 academic year.

The releases will include the following information:

Total applications received
Applications approved
Applications currently being processed
Ineligible/withdrawn applications
Applications started online but not completed
Further information required from student/sponsors
Students receiving first maintenance payment.

The first release of this information will be on 27 October 2009, and this will cover the processing and payment up to and including 18 October 2009. This will be followed by a further two updates at weekly intervals. The information will be made available on the Student Loans Company website.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students have not yet had their application to the Student Loans Company finalised; and what assessment he has made of undue delays in finalising loans on the ability of new students to manage their finances without having to resort to other loans and bank overdrafts. [292489]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company will shortly release figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009-10 academic year.

The releases will include the following information:

Total applications received
Applications approved
Applications currently being processed
Ineligible/withdrawn applications
Applications started online but not completed
Further information required from student/sponsors
Students receiving first maintenance payment.

The first release of this information will be on 27 October 2009, and this will cover the processing and payment up to and including 18 October 2009. This will be followed by a further two updates at weekly intervals. The information will be made available on the Student Loans Company website.

The Access to Learning Fund, provided by the Government and administered by Higher Education Institutions, can provide assistance to students in financial hardship.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been deducted in student loan repayments from the salaries of individuals in each income group resident in *(a)* the Truro and St. Austell constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [295635]

Mr. Lammy: Deductions from salaries are made when the borrower's income is above £15,000 per year, £1,250 per month or £288 per week. A borrower who starts work late in the tax year on an annual salary above £15,000 will have deductions made but may have earnings during the tax year of less than £15,000.

Reliable information is not available at constituency level.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people of each age group resident in *(a)* the Truro and St. Austell constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England had not repaid their student loans on the latest date for which figures are available. [295636]

Mr. Lammy: Borrowers become liable to repay their loans in the April after they leave their course (the statutory repayment due date, SRDD). After that date those with earnings of over £15,000 will repay, usually by deductions from salary. Those liable to repay who have not yet made a repayment will include borrowers whose earnings are below the repayment threshold, have gone on to further study or are doing voluntary work.

Reliable information is not available at constituency level.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the average time it will take for an individual to repay in full a student loan taken out *(a)* before and *(b)* after 2006. [295637]

Mr. Lammy: We estimate that students who entered higher education since 1998, who took out Income Contingent Repayment student loans, and who fully repay, will take an average of around 13 years to do so.

Telephones: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in each local authority area in the North West that will be (i) liable for and (ii) exempt from payment of the levy on telephone lines proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper. [296439]

Mr. Timms: This Department has made no specific estimate of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in each local authority area in the North West which will be (i) liable for and (ii) exempt from payment of the levy on telephone lines proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper.

Ofcom estimates that there are over three million fixed lines in the North West area. We do not have estimates on the number of people on benefits in this area but recognise that those on the lowest incomes might have difficulty paying the fixed line levy and that is why we have confirmed that those on social telephony schemes will be exempt. The social telephony schemes are available to those on income support, income-based Job Seeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance (income rated) or Guaranteed Pensions Credit.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many qualifications at each level have been awarded through Train to Gain in each year since the programme's inception. [296255]

Kevin Brennan: Train to Gain achievements for 2005/06 (April to July) to 2008/09, by level, were published in table 7.2 of the Post-16 Education and Skills statistical first release (SFR) on 22 October 2009:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many qualifications have been awarded to individuals working for *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large companies through Train to Gain in each year since the programme's inception. [296256]

Kevin Brennan: The table shows Train to Gain achievements by employer size, in each year since the programme's inception.

Train to Gain achievements by employer size

Employer size (number of employees)	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
1 to 49	400	18,200	72,000	189,100
50 to 249	500	12,100	46,200	111,400
250 to 4,999	500	9,200	31,500	89,800
5,000 or more	1,400	6,000	15,000	41,300
Not defined	3,700	25,700	21,800	40,300
Total	6,500	71,100	186,500	471,900

[1] Provisional data.

Notes:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred and may not sum to totals due to rounding.

2. Figures for 2008/09 are not comparable with earlier years. In 2008/09 NVQs delivered in the workplace which were previously funded by FE are now funded through Train to Gain.

Source:

WBL ILR

UK High Technology Fund

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2092W, on the UK High Technology Fund (UKHTF), what the cost of management fees related to the UKHTF has been in each year since its formation; for what reasons the number of companies receiving funding through the UKHTF was lower in 2007 and 2008 than in 2006; which underlying funds have received funding from the UKHTF; what the monetary value of funding from the UKHTF to underlying funds was in each year since 2001; and how much funding remains available for *(a)* future funding of underlying funds and *(b)* in underlying funds which have received funding from UKHTF for future investments in business. [292909]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The following table provides a response to the questions related to underlying funds that have received funding from the UKHTF; the monetary value of investments from the UKHTF to underlying funds in each year since 2001; and how much funding remains available for future funding of underlying funds.

The number of companies receiving investment through UKHTF was lower in 2007 and 2008 than in 2006 as a natural consequence of the underlying funds entering their post investment period where the focus was towards managing out and exiting the existing portfolio.

Unfortunately the information requested in this question about cost of management fees related to UKHTF is commercially sensitive at this time in light of work BIS is undertaking to source a fund of funds manager for the UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF). The information will be released once the UKIIF fund of funds manager is appointed and this is likely to happen at the end of December.

We are unable to answer the question about how much funding remains available in underlying funds which have received funding from UKHTF for future investments in business, as this goes beyond the Department's interaction with the fund of funds manager.

	Commitment	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*	*Commitment remaining*
MTI4 Limited Partnership	20,193	8,193	2,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	—	—	—	20,193	—
Amadeus Capital Partners II	15,271	4,421	775	2,170	2,635	2,170	1,085	775	310	14,341	930
The Merlin Biosciences Fund	12,816	5,241	2,422	2,188	1,200	1,085	395	261	24	12,816	—
Advent Private Equity Fund III	20,001	4,801	4,900	2,800	3,200	2,000	1,300	467	667	19,201	800
Add One	10,157	2,569	442	1,106	1,808	1,489	1,013	719	352	9,498	659
Accel Europe	8,577	536	1,037	663	1,851	1,474	1,608	1,047	151	8,367	210
Scottish Equity Partners II	10,000	1,203	1,241	910	1,925	1,273	2,392	[illegible]	—	10,000	—
Quester Venture Partnership	20,000	3,000	1,800	3,700	1,700	4,000	2,044	1,756	500	18,500	1,500
The Merlin Biosciences Fund III	6,973	—	160	1,270	986	1,711	1,199	670	289	6,285	688
	123,988	29,964	14,777	18,807	19,305	17,202	11,036	5,817	2,293	119,201	4,787

Vocational Training: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has made available to *(a)* all unemployed persons and *(b)* unemployed persons under the age of 21 years in (i) Birmingham, Northfield constituency and (ii) Birmingham to learn new skills to retrain in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [296271]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not available at constituency or Jobcentre Plus district level. I have asked the acting chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council to write to my hon. Friend with information about funding for training for unemployed people available in his region.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

JUSTICE

European Court of Human Rights

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of cases resolved in the UK courts under the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of which leave to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights might otherwise have been sought; and if he will make a statement. [296042]

Mr. Straw: It is not possible to appeal directly from proceedings in UK courts to the European Court of Human Rights. Proceedings at the European Court of Human Rights take the form of a new application against the United Kingdom under the European convention on human rights, which may or may not relate to proceedings before the domestic courts. It is not therefore possible to make a direct numerical estimate of the effect of the Human Rights Act in resolving cases that may otherwise have been considered by the European Court of Human Rights.

Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff working for the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity have been seconded from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Government Departments; [296099]

(2) how many staff are working for the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity. [296100]

Mr. Straw: The Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity has no separate support. It is being supported by officials from within the Constitution & Judiciary Division of the Ministry of Justice, within existing budgets.

None of the officials works full-time for or on the advisory panel, but, seven spend significant time on it.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria were used to appoint members of the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity. [296102]

Mr. Straw: The Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity was set up by me to give advice on possible changes to improve judicial diversity. The members were selected because of their experience of the justice system, equality and diversity issues, and their capacity to identify and develop practical proposals for change.

The chair of the panel is Baroness Julia Neuberger DBE, while the other members of the panel are:

Dr. Nicola Brewer CMG

Dame Professor Hazel Genn DBE QC

Lord Justice Goldring

Andrew Holroyd CBE

Winston Hunter QC

Details of their biographies can be obtained from the following link

http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease280409b.htm#panel-members.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated annual cost is of running the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity. [296103]

Mr. Straw: The Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity has been asked to report within 12 months of starting and so will not have ongoing annual running costs.

The costs of the panel, from April 2009 to the end of September, were £13,447.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295721]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice is considering whether all of its helplines should be required to attain a relevant recognised accreditation. If the Department proceeds with this requirement, it will discuss with each helpline which of the available accreditations (including the Helplines Association standard) is best suited to its business needs.

Driving Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for driving cars while uninsured in each police authority area in the East of England in each year since 1999. [296036]

Claire Ward: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the East of England Government office region for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by police force area, from 1999 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1] in the East of England Government office region, 1999 to 2007[2,3,4]

Area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[5]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bedfordshire	2,113	2,124	2,879	2,871	3,065	2,968	3,090	2,702	2,436
Cambridgeshire	1,665	1,682	1,334	1,518	1,728	1,793	2,003	2,826	1,972
Essex	4,581	5,177	5,076	5,152	4,791	4,724	4,802	4,511	4,865
Hertfordshire	2,822	3,407	3,869	4,675	5,147	5,462	5,820	6,023	4,523
Norfolk	2,092	2,363	2,753	3,166	3,812	3,204	2,725	2,690	2,509
Suffolk	2,307	2,115	2,310	2,594	3,225	3,232	2,588	2,250	1,768
Total	15,580	16,868	18,221	19,976	21,768	21,383	21,028	21,002	18,073

[1] Offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988, section 143(2).

[2] Data given are on a principal offence basis. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] As from 1 June 2003, "driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks" became a fixed penalty offence.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Judges: Retirement

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judges have retired in each of the last three years. [296111]

Mr. Straw: The following table sets out the numbers of retirements and deaths in service of those who previously held judicial office in England and Wales over the last three financial years.

	Number of retirements	*Number of deaths in service*
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	55	7
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	70	9
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	93	1

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will issue a direction to the coroner for North West Kent to reply to the letters of 29 June and 26 August 2009 from the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling sent on behalf of his constituent Mr Simon Higgins. [295474]

Bridget Prentice: Although Ministers in this Department do not have any authority to intervene in operational matters of this nature, I understand that the coroner had not in fact received the right hon. Member's correspondence as it had been sent to a previous address. However, he has now been sent copies and I understand that he has replied.

Prison Accommodation

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders convicted of terrorism offences have been housed in approved premises following their release from custody since January 2007; and what additional resources were provided to assist with their supervision in each case. [295840]

Maria Eagle: Since September 2008, information on the release details of individuals convicted of terrorism or terrorism-related offences has been held centrally. Since then, 11 terrorist offenders have been released to approved premises. Data about offenders released into approved premises (formerly known as bail/probation hostels) are collected centrally, from information supplied by individual approved premises. The data collected do not include offence details more generally. Obtaining this information dating back to 2007 would have to be done on a case by case basis, and as such could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Probation areas may apply to register with the National Offender Management Service as Critical Public Protection Cases (CPPCs) those offenders, including offenders convicted of terrorism or terrorism-related offences, who present the highest levels of risk of harm. Where offenders are registered as CPPCs, areas may apply for additional funding to strengthen local risk management plans: Such funding can cover temporary additional staffing in approved premises, a member of staff to escort offenders outside the approved premises, improvements to security equipment at approved premises or other specific interventions which contribute to public protection.

Prisoners Release

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released under the End of Custody Licence scheme since June 2007 had previously been refused release on Home Detention Curfew. [295842]

Maria Eagle: Between 29 June 2007 and 31 August 2009, around 67,400 prisoners were released under End of Custody Licence, the latest date for which this figure is available. Of these, around 11,200, about 17 per cent. had previously been refused release on home detention curfew.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

There is a significant difference between the operation of the HDC scheme and release on ECL. Release on HDC can lead to the release on licence for up to four and a half months before the automatic release date. The average period spent on HDC is about two and a half months. In contrast, the maximum period spent on ECL is two and a half weeks, 18 days.

The qualifying criteria and selection processes for the schemes reflect these differences.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons convicted of terrorist offences have been released into post-custody supervision in the community since 2001. [296546]

Mr. Straw: Since 2007, the National Offender Management Service has held information centrally on the number of offenders convicted of terrorist or terrorism-related offences who have been released into post-custody supervision. To provide the information requested, going back to 2001, would require manual checking of records, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2007, 36 offenders convicted of terrorist or terrorism-related offences have been released to licensed supervision in the community. None of these offenders has been arrested or convicted of a terrorist or terrorism-related offence following release.

Prisoners Release

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many 18 to 24-year-olds released from prison received support under *(a)* section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 and *(b)* section 47 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 immediately on their release in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [295834]

Maria Eagle: Data on the release of offenders who subsequently receive accommodation related support from both local authorities and community care services are not routinely collected by NOMS. Additionally, approximately 55 per cent. of all sentenced releases from custody do not receive a period of statutory supervision. Therefore there is no facility for recording such information and to provide the data requested would be at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Mothers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of the female prison population are mothers. [295827]

Maria Eagle: This information is not collected centrally and in order to provide it staff would need to look at each individual's record. This could be completed only at disproportionate cost. In addition, it would not be possible to guarantee the accuracy of the data as they are often reliant on information being provided by the prisoners themselves.

The 2003-04 resettlement survey commissioned by the then Prison Service Custody to Work Unit showed that half of all female prisoners had dependent children (including stepchildren), and that 46 per cent. of those women had lived with at least one dependent child before custody.

Reoffenders

Keith Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reconviction rate of offenders *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 18 following (i) a non-custodial sentence and (ii) each successive custodial sentence up to and including the tenth was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [295212]

Maria Eagle: Tables 1 and 2 following show the one year reoffending rates for adult offenders released from custody or commencing a court order in the first quarter of 2007; table 1 by custodial and court orders and table 2 by previous custodial sentences. The tables show the proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders.

Table 1: Actual reoffending rate and frequency rate per 100 offenders from the 2007 adult cohort

Sentence type	*Number of offenders released from prison or commencing a court order*	*Actual reoffending rate*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
Custody	12,810	47.2	223.2
Court orders under probation supervision[1]	37,275	36.1	121.3

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[1] Court orders include community sentences, community orders and suspended sentence orders supervised by the probation service. They do not include any pre or post release supervision.

Further information on adult rates of reoffending can be found in: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Table 2: Actual reoffending rate and frequency rate per 100 offenders, by number of previous custodial sentences, from the 2007 adult cohort

Number of previous custodial sentences	*Number of offenders released from prison or commencing a court order*	*Actual reoffending rate*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
No previous	26,819	25.2	72.6
One previous	6,225	40.3	131.4
Two previous	3,629	48.9	179.9
Three previous	2,491	52.4	198.2
Four previous	1,883	56.6	236.3
Five previous	1,585	59.9	256.8
Between six and 10	4,516	64.5	288.7
More than 10	2,937	76.4	447.1
Total	50,085	39.0	147.3

Tables 3 and 4 following show the one year reoffending rates for juvenile offenders released from custody, commencing a non-custodial court disposal or those given an out-of-court disposal in the first quarter of 2007; table 3 by custodial and non-custodial sentences and table 4 by previous custodial sentences. The table shows the proportion of juvenile offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders.

Table 3: One year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody by custodial and non-custodial sentences, from the 2007 juvenile cohort

	Number of juvenile offenders released from custody, commencing a noncustodial court disposal or those given an out-of-court disposal	*Actual reoffending rate*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
Out-of-court disposal	33,318	26.4	59.7
First-tier penalty	10,869	47.4	154.5
Other disposal	822	65.2	288.0
Community penalty	6,757	69.0	280.4
Custody	778	75.3	359.0
Total	52,544	37.5	115.7

Table 4: Actual reoffending rate and frequency rate per 100 offenders, by number of previous custodial sentences, from the 2007 juvenile cohort

Number of previous custodial sentences	*Number of juvenile offenders released from custody, commencing a non-custodial court disposal or those given an out-of-court disposal*	*Actual reoffending rate*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
No previous	51,101	36.2	106.9
One previous	778	80.5	372.4
Two previous	333	85.0	452.6
Three previous	161	86.3	539.8
Four previous	78	88.5	485.9
Five previous	54	90.7	472.2
More than six previous	39	89.7	594.9
Total	52,544	37.5	115.7

Further information on rates of reoffending of juveniles can be found in: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

Sentencing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum sentence applies for someone convicted of an offence involving stealing car keys from a house then stealing a vehicle parked outside. [295743]

Mr. Straw: The more serious matter here is the stealing of keys within the house. This constitutes burglary in a dwelling, for which the maximum penalty is 14 years' imprisonment. That is the offence likely to be charged. There is no minimum penalty unless this is a third offence of domestic burglary, in which case there is a minimum penalty of three years for an adult.

Shoplifting: Sentencing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of shoplifting led to *(a)* a caution and *(b)* a conviction resulting in (i) probation and (ii) a custodial sentence in each parliamentary constituency in the East of England in each year since 1999. [295948]

Claire Ward: Information held by the Ministry of Justice on the number of offenders cautioned, found guilty, sentenced and those given a sentence that includes an element of probation at all courts for 'stealing from shops and stalls' (shoplifting), in the East of England region, 1999 to 2007, are shown in the following tables 1 and 2.

The court proceedings database does not hold specific information on the offender beyond age, gender and the court where the case was heard; therefore the Ministry of Justice cannot tell if the offender was a resident of the East of England region.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] for 'Shoplifting'[3], East of England region, 1999 to 2007[4]

Region/police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bedfordshire	681	492	647	513	641	753	855	887	687
Cambridgeshire	433	532	430	428	420	550	843	770	601
Essex	1,016	946	1,014	810	767	805	1,277	2,069	2,611
Hertfordshire	568	704	777	604	662	760	749	897	980
Norfolk	573	638	495	382	400	580	648	886	708
Suffolk	379	572	599	396	428	466	487	521	604
East of England region	3,650	3,884	3,962	3,133	3,318	3,914	4,859	6,030	6,191

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Stealing from 'shops and stalls' (shoplifting) is an offence under Theft Act 1968, section 1.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 2: Number of offenders found guilty, sentenced and given a community rehabilitation order[1], community order[2], suspended sentence[2] or an immediate custodial sentence for 'Shoplifting'[4] at all courts, East of England region, 1999 to 2007[5, 6]

Region/police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bedfordshire									
Found guilty	798	805	867	916	1,098	1,073	879	551	594
Total sentenced	809	812	874	928	1,109	1,076	881	554	593
Of which:									
Community rehabilitation order	125	154	146	152	155	129	91	—	—
Community order	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	40	100	110
Suspended sentence	—	—	2	3	2	2	3	22	25
Immediate custodial sentence	176	213	236	268	312	285	229	106	112
Cambridgeshire									
Found guilty	704	872	895	857	791	717	802	808	717
Total sentenced	701	869	897	853	791	716	803	808	710
Of which:									
Community rehabilitation order	68	116	121	171	124	124	39	1	—
Community order	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	92	152	152
Suspended sentence	—	2	—	—	—	—	11	33	45
Immediate custodial sentence	82	101	122	97	113	86	99	119	109
Essex									
Found guilty	1,622	1,578	1,744	1,624	1,686	1,646	1,841	1,715	1,913
Total sentenced	1,628	1,573	1,746	1,631	1,701	1,646	1,846	1,716	1,896

Table 2: Number of offenders found guilty, sentenced and given a community rehabilitation order[1], community order[2], suspended sentence[3] or an immediate custodial sentence for 'Shoplifting'[4] at all courts, East of England region, 1999 to 2007[5, 6]

Region/police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Of which:									
Community rehabilitation order	214	229	230	236	229	151	68	4	3
Community order	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	164	311	394
Suspended sentence	3	—	3	1	2	2	36	98	113
Immediate custodial sentence	360	372	466	486	542	518	535	419	432
Hertfordshire									
Found guilty	779	889	917	964	1,051	1,130	1,126	874	846
Total sentenced	781	892	916	966	1,049	1,126	1,131	867	839
Of which:									
Community rehabilitation order	121	129	154	160	165	134	71	2	1
Community order[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	106	178	182
Suspended sentence	1	—	1	—	2	—	18	40	43
Immediate custodial sentence	86	134	176	199	191	237	239	199	160
Norfolk									
Found guilty	1,027	991	1,088	1,045	944	925	923	1,040	885
Total sentenced	1,033	989	1,083	1,043	941	919	920	1,035	885
Of which:									
Community rehabilitation order	92	107	146	151	90	60	35	6	2
Community order	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	116	256	192
Suspended sentence	1	2	3	3	3	—	14	56	36
Immediate custodial sentence	122	133	152	147	152	157	106	136	150
Suffolk									
Found guilty	666	749	771	743	839	726	745	659	732
Total sentenced	654	745	770	739	836	724	744	658	725
Of which:									
Community rehabilitation order	59	92	94	88	98	52	55	4	2
Community order	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27	77	131
Suspended sentence	2	2	1	3	3	4	40	42	56
Immediate custodial sentence	101	106	102	112	132	104	110	111	99
East of England region									
Found guilty	5,596	5,884	6,282	6,149	6,409	6,217	6,316	5,647	5,687
Total sentenced	5,606	5,880	6,286	6,160	6,427	6,207	6,325	5,638	5,648
Of which:									
Community rehabilitation order	679	827	891	958	861	650	359	17	8
Community order	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	545	1,074	1,161
Suspended sentence	7	6	10	10	12	8	122	291	318
Immediate custodial sentence	927	1,059	1,254	1,309	1,442	1,387	1,318	1,090	1,062

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Formerly a probation order.

[2] Under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, various types of community order previously available for adults (community punishment order, community rehabilitation order, drug treatment and testing order) were replaced by a single generic community order with a range of possible requirements. Courts are able to choose different elements to make up a bespoke community order, which is relevant to that particular offender and the crime(s) they committed.

[3] Fully suspended sentence prior to April 2005, suspended sentence order for offences committed from 4 April 2005.

[4] Stealing from 'shops and stalls' (shoplifting) is an offence under Theft Act 1968, section 1.

[5] These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Young Offender Institutions: Injuries

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many actual or suspected fractures were incurred during use of force incidents at each young offender institution in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; [292950]

(2) how many control and restraint incidents were recorded at each young offenders institution in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [292951]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by asking every young offender establishment to analyse all use of force records for these four years. Use of force is a last resort and is lawful only if its use is reasonable, proportionate and necessary. On 15 December 2008 the Government published their response to the Independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Settings which followed the deaths of two young people in secure training centres. As part of this a new four stage system is being developed for restraint of young people in both youth offender institutions and secure training centres.

CABINET OFFICE

Building Britain's Future

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment was made of the sustainability of the policies set out in Building Britain's Future. [288024]

Tessa Jowell: Building Britain's Future set out a range of commitments that will positively benefit sustainability, including ensuring investment in energy efficiency and the next generation of renewables, nuclear and clean coal technology to make Britain a global leader in low carbon industries; incentives for the take up of low carbon buses; developing a National Cycle Plan to promote cycling as a mainstream form of personal transport; and a commitment over the next two years to build 20,000 new energy efficient social and affordable homes.

Cancer: North East

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many deaths from breast cancer there have been in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the North East in each year since 1997; [296139]

(2) how many deaths from cancer there have been in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the North East in each year since 1997. [296140]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking:

1) How many deaths from breast cancer there have been in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside and (c) the North East in each year since 1997. (296139)

2) How many deaths from cancer there have been in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside and (c) the North East in each year since 1997. (296140)

The tables attached provide the numbers of deaths where (1) breast cancer and (2) cancer were the underlying cause of death in (a) Jarrow parliamentary constituency, (b) South Tyneside local authority and (c) North East government office region from 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority and North East government office region, 1997-2008[2,3]

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East
1997	15	42	610
1998	17	39	571
1999	20	32	545
2000	19	31	518
2001	16	34	557
2002	21	34	513
2003	14	29	477
2004	13	26	524
2005	13	25	553
2006	22	36	532
2007	12	23	475
2008	29	46	545

[1] Cause of death for breast cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 174-175 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50 for the years 2001 to 2008. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 is not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on boundaries, and postcode allocations to boundaries, as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority and North East government office region, 1997-2008[2,3]

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East
1997	282	531	7,776
1998	280	549	7,901
1999	282	526	7,529
2000	272	522	7,469
2001	278	542	7,811
2002	281	517	7,695
2003	264	526	7,649
2004	263	527	7,629
2005	276	534	7,648
2006	297	485	7,667
2007	250	514	7,780
2008	284	542	7,949

[1] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for the years 2001 to 2008. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on boundaries, and postcode allocations to boundaries, as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Census: Religion

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what account was taken of the process and results of the 2001 Census in deciding which religions to list on the 2011 Census; what criteria were used to determine the list; and if she will make a statement. [295047]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what account was taken of the process and results of the 2001 Census in deciding which religions to list on the 2011 Census; and what criteria were used to determine the list. (295047)

The religion question was introduced in the 2001 Census as a voluntary question and has been designed to collect information on religious affiliation, which is required by many users of census statistics for monitoring equality and planning of services.

Question development for the 2011 Census began in 2005 and since then the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has consulted and engaged with a large number of census users including those from central, regional and local government, academia, community groups and organisations to determine their requirements for topics and questions in the 2011 Census. In addition, a detailed specific consultation was conducted in 2006/7 to refine the user requirements for information on ethnic group, national identity, religion and language questions for the 2011 Census. As a suite of questions they provide the opportunity for individual respondents to indicate their identity in the ways they consider most appropriate, and which ONS will be able to measure in the most statistically relevant way to meet the expressed needs of users. Consultation revealed a high demand for a religion question and the majority of responses indicated a requirement for comparability with the 2001 Census question.

The tick-box categories used in the 2001 Census continue to represent the largest religious groups and have been repeated in all testing of the religion question. The 'none' tick-box has been renamed 'no religion' and been put first in the list to ensure that people who do not have a religious affiliation are aware that the question provides an appropriate response category. There is insufficient space on the questionnaire to include additional tick-boxes. However, Census outputs based on the write-in answers for those religions not specifically identified by tick boxes will be produced to meet user requirements. Consultation on the form and content of outputs from the 2011 Census is now underway.

The Draft Census (England and Wales) Order setting out the information to be collected in the 2011 Census was laid before Parliament on 21 October. To coincide with the laying of the Census Order, additional material covering the recommendations for questions to be asked in the 2011 Census has been placed on the census website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/question-and-content-recommendations-for-2011/index.html

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many external training courses were attended by staff of her Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of attendance was of each such course. [289786]

Tessa Jowell: Cabinet Office is committed to life-long learning and personal development for all its employees. Individual management units decide on appropriate training to meet individual need and provide funding. Information on attendance and cost is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Power of Information Taskforce

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what changes in practice have been implemented by Government Departments following publication of the final report of the Power of Information Taskforce on 2 March 2009. [292798]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Response to the Power of Information Taskforce Report, published in May, accepted the recommendations of the report in principle. The Cabinet Office, Central Office of Information and the National Archives are leading on delivering these recommendations, including building the capabilities needed to deliver the themes of the Taskforce report across government.

Many Government Departments are already adopting the principles set out in the Taskforce report, including the use of social media techniques to increase engagement and collaboration with citizens in the formation of policy and the delivery of services, an example of which is DEFRA's online consultation on the Food 2030 challenges

http://sandbox.defra.gov.uk/food2030/.

An online forum was created enabling the public to discuss their views on the issues facing the food system, providing a space to discuss the shape of the future food system. The public were invited to leave comments and questions which will be used to inform the forthcoming final version of Food 2030.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many under 25 year olds in Norwich North constituency claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [296343]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many under 25 year olds in Norwich North constituency claimed jobseekers allowance in (a) 1997 (b) 2007 (c) 2008 and (d) 2009. (296343)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of persons under 25 years old, in the Norwich North constituency, who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in September 2009, the latest data available, and the same month in 2008, 2007 and 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Number of persons[1] under 25-years-old resident in Norwich North constituency claiming jobseeker's allowance

	Number[2]
September 1997	670
September 2007	350
September 2008	410
September 2009	715

[1] Age data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

[2] Data rounded to nearest 5.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

National Economic Council

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what costs the National Economic Council has incurred since October 2008. [291890]

Tessa Jowell: It is not possible to isolate costs incurred by the National Economic Council. Administration of the Council is one of a range of responsibilities falling to the Economic Policy Coordination Team within the Economic and Domestic Affairs Secretariat in the Cabinet Office.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many times the National Economic Council has met since October 2008. [291892]

Tessa Jowell: The National Economic Council has met regularly since its inception in October 2008. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice and the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Details of the membership and terms of reference of the Committee are available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Cabinet Office website.

National Economic Council: Arrests

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment she has made of the performance of the National Economic Council in meeting its objectives to date; and if she will make a statement. [291891]

Tessa Jowell: Since its inception in October 2008 the National Economic Council has led the Government's action to support households and businesses in response to the recession and to prepare for a sustainable recovery.

Teenage Pregnancy

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many conceptions and what *(a)* rate and *(b)* percentage of conceptions there were for (i) under 18-year-olds and (ii) under 16-year-olds in each (A) strategic health authority area, (B) local authority area and (C) primary care trust area in each quarter from 1998. [295888]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many conceptions and what (a) rate and (b) percentage of conceptions there were for (i) under 18 year olds and (ii) under 16 year olds in each (A) strategic health authority area, (B) local authority area and (C) primary care trust area in each quarter from 1998. (295888)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

Table 1 provides numbers of conceptions to women aged (i) under 18 by (B) local authority district, for each quarter from 1998 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available). Quarterly figures on conceptions to women aged under 16 are not published in order to protect the privacy of individuals. Rates and percentages by local authority district for each quarter could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Table 2 provides (a) numbers, (b) percentages and (c) rates for conceptions to women aged (i) under 18 and (ii) under 16 for (A) Strategic Health Authorities for each year from 1998 to 2007.

Table 3a provides (a) numbers and (b) percentages for conceptions to women aged (i) under 18 for (B) local authority districts for each year from 1998 to 2007. Table 3b provides (a) numbers for conceptions to women aged (ii) under 16 for (B) local authority districts in three-year aggregated groups from 1998 to 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available). Figures on conceptions to women aged under 16 are not published for local authority districts in order to protect the privacy of individuals. To protect the privacy of individuals, some cells in the tables have been suppressed or geographies collapsed in accordance with ONS guidelines on confidentiality. Details are given on the relevant tables. Further figures could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Table 4 provides numbers of conceptions to women aged (i) under 18 by (C) primary care organisation for 2007, the only year for which figures are available. Further figures by primary care organisation could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many pregnancies there were where either the mother or the father was aged *(a)* 13 and under, *(b)* 14 or 15 and *(c)* between 16 and 18 years in each of the last five years. [296491]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many pregnancies there were where either the mother or the father was aged (a) 13 and under, (b) 14 or 15 and (c) between 16 and 18 years in each of the last five years. (296491)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the number of conceptions to women aged (a) under 14, (b) 14 or 15 and (c) 16 to 18 years for England and Wales for 2003 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available).

Figures on conceptions by father's age are not available.

Conceptions[1] to women aged (a) under 14 years[2] , (b) 14[2] or 15[2] years and (c) 16 to 18[2] years, 2003-2007: England and Wales[3]Numbers

	Age of women at conception		
	(a) Under 14 years	*(b) 14 or 15 years*	*(c) 16 to 18 years*
2003	334	7,690	60,748
2004	337	7,278	61.956
2005	327	7,603	62,439
2006	295	7,531	62,436
2007	369	7,831	63,748

[1] Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.
[2] Age at estimated date of conception.
[3] Women usually resident in England and Wales.

Unemployment: Newport Gwent

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged between 16 and 24 years had been unemployed in Newport East constituency for over *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months on the latest date for which figures are available. [295932]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 years were unemployed in Newport East constituency for over (a) six and (b) 12 months on the latest date for which figures are available. (295932)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age band and geography are not available. As an alternative, we have provided the number of persons, aged between 16 and 24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in September 2009 for over (a) six months and (b) 12 months, from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

In September 2009 the number of persons aged between 16 and 24 claiming JSA resident in the Newport East constituency for (a) over six months was 185 and (b) over 12 months was 10.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Vetting: Scotland

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Government employees in England and Wales were subject to basic disclosure checks undertaken by Disclosure Scotland in each year since 2002. [294162]

Tessa Jowell: Since October 2008 all new Government employees are required to satisfy recruitment controls that include a check of unspent criminal record. It is the responsibility of each individual public sector organisation to ensure these checks take place. The total number of new HMG employees and basic disclosure checks carried out is not collated or held centrally.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has given to Sangin district, Helmand province in each of the last five years. [295177]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) works as part of the cross-HMG and multi-national Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Helmand. Sangin benefits from a range of funding sources, both direct and indirect, and through national and regional programmes, so it is not possible to specify the exact amount spent in the district.

DFID has contributed indirectly to Sangin by providing the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) with over £26.5 million since 2003. Two community-selected projects in Sangin worth almost £650,000 are currently nearing completion under MRRD oversight. Sangin has also benefited from the Helmand wheat seed programme. Last year, DFID and the cross-Government Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF) each contributed £2 million to distribute wheat to 32,000 farmers across Helmand, including 2,000 in Sangin. This year, DFID and the SAF will each contribute £5 million to reach almost 40,000 farmers, including 2,200 in Sangin. SAF funding for stabilisation activities in Sangin last year totalled £1.3 million.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has provided to emergency relief initiatives to support those affected by the famine in Chin State, Burma, in 2009; and whether he plans to increase that level of assistance in 2010. [296374]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed a total of £880,000 for humanitarian assistance in response to severe food shortages in Chin State. Of this commitment, £600,000 was disbursed towards the end of 2008 and £155,000 has been disbursed so far during 2009. We expect to disburse the remaining £125,000 shortly.

We are keeping the humanitarian situation in Chin State under close review and are considering, in consultation with the United Nations and other donors, how best to address longer-term food security needs in Chin State and other parts of Burma.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will provide assistance to cross-border humanitarian aid initiatives across the India-Burma border, for the purpose of supplying aid to remote parts of Chin State which cannot be reached through in-country initiatives. [296375]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department of International Development (DFID) has no plans to provide funding for cross-border aid from India to Burma.

DFID has committed £880,000 for humanitarian assistance in response to the severe food shortages experienced in Chin State. This assistance is being delivered through the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme and their local partners, which have access to all parts of Chin State from within Burma.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has provided in cross-border humanitarian assistance to eastern Burma in 2009; and whether he plans to increase that level of assistance in 2010. [296376]

Mr. Michael Foster: Approximately £360,000 of funding from the Department for International Development (DFID) is being used by non-governmental organisations to provide cross-border humanitarian assistance from Thailand to eastern Burma in 2009. We anticipate that this figure will increase in 2010.

DFID is also providing approximately £500,000 in 2009 for cross-border aid from China to Shan and Kachin States in north-eastern Burma. Proposals to increase this funding in 2010 are under consideration.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [295443]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I did not attend or host any Christmas functions in my role as Development Secretary arranged by the Department for International Development.

Records for officials hosting or attending Christmas functions are not held centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

All expenditure incurred is made in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Indonesia: Earthquakes

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the effectiveness of the operations of the UK search and rescue teams in Pedang, Indonesia following the earthquake there; and if he will make a statement. [2[illegible]380]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) sent a search and rescue team to Pedang in response to a request from the Government of Indonesia for international search and rescue help. The team were able to undertake several vital tasks, using their skills and equipment to help guide the overall search and rescue effort, investigate otherwise unsurveyed areas outside Pedang city and advise on problems such as the safety of damaged buildings and recovery of victims. Further information on how the UK is responding to the earthquake is available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Overseas Aid: Rescue Services

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what search and rescue missions to non-EU countries were undertaken by the Urban Rescue Team with UK registered search and rescue dogs in each of the last five years. [296379]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has been involved with two missions that have used UK registered search and rescue dogs. These were following the earthquakes in Pakistan in 2005 and in Indonesia this October. DFID does not have a record of all occasions that UK registered search and rescue dogs have been deployed.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has contributed to Somalia in the last 12 months; and on what has it been spent. [295175]

Mr. Thomas: Information on the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid to all developing countries in 2008-09 was published in Statistics on International Development, which is available online:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

In 2008-09 (the latest period for which confirmed spending figures are available) total DFID bilateral aid to Somalia was £33 million.

The programme aims to promote peace and better governance across Somalia, meet humanitarian needs, and improve basic services; particularly health and education.

DFID aid to Somalia is delivered through United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), working with local implementation partners.

St. Helena: Airports

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish the results of his Department's recent consultation on future access to St. Helena. [295621]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Consultation Report is available on the Department for International Development's website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Sudan

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of the expulsion of aid agencies in South Kordofan and eastern Sudan following the International Criminal Court's indictment of President Bashir in March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [294672]

Mr. Thomas: The Government of Sudan's decision to expel 13 international and close down three national NGOs in March this year has had a detrimental effect on the delivery of assistance to the people of South Kordofan and eastern Sudan. Health facilities, water and sanitation projects and livelihood programmes run by these organisations have either lost support or have been discontinued.

As with Darfur, the ability to respond to future emergencies—such as floods or conflict—is now much lower in these areas. The effects of the expulsions are most acutely felt in the delivery of recovery and basic services programmes. Since March, several NGOs have been trying to expand or establish new programmes to cover these gaps. In particular, Mercy Corps Scotland, Care Switzerland, and Save the Children—Sweden plan to scale up programmes in South Kordofan. However, the Sudan Government has been slow to grant the necessary permits and it is unlikely that new programmes will be fully operational for some months.

TREASURY

Child Care Vouchers

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees have taken part in an employer childcare voucher scheme in each year since the introduction of exemptions from tax and national insurance contributions on such vouchers. [295996]

Mr. Timms: Published research, commissioned by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in 2006, by the National Centre for Social Research estimated that there were 174,000 users of child care vouchers available under Employer Supported Childcare (ESC) in late 2005. The research report is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report23-final.pdf.

Information for other years is not available, as HMRC does not collect administrative data on the use of ESC.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 775W, on council tax, if he will take steps to ensure the Valuation Office Agency's council tax banding support tool is used to identify and correct errors in the council tax banding list. [292862]

Ian Pearson: The council tax banding support tool is not a suitable tool for such a use. It is accessed through cases on individual properties and provides information about comparable bandings and settlements. It does not make decisions but provides information to valuers to help them make decisions. Raising cases and generating this information for over 22.7 million properties (in England) would be impractical and very resource intensive.

Economic and Monetary Union: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 966W, on the Euro Preparations Advisory Group, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting from September 2006; and which local authorities were represented at that meeting. [294447]

Ian Pearson: The minute of the local authority euro preparations meeting of September 2006 has been deposited in the Library of the House. We do not hold the attendee list for this meeting.

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures his Department has implemented to encourage the construction of new homes in each year since 2001. [296608]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have recently taken a number of steps to support house building and construction in the context of the global economic downturn. In September 2008 as part of a £1 billion package of targeted support for home owners, home buyers and the house building sector, the Government announced that stamp duty land tax would not apply to purchases of residential property of £175,000 or less for 12 months from 3 September 2008. Budget 2009 announced an extension until 31 December 2009. Around 160,000 transactions have benefited from this fiscal measure.

Previously, Budget 2007 announced details of a stamp duty land tax exemption for new zero-carbon homes which supports the Government's wider housing and environmental objectives. As part of Budget 2008 the Government extended the exemption to new flats, retrospectively from 1 October 2007.

Public Expenditure

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's per capita spending was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07, (iv) 2007-08 and (v) 2008-09. [293900]

Mr. Byrne: The figures on total identifiable expenditure per head by country for 2004-05 to 2008-09 can be found in table 9.2 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2009 (Cm 7630).

Revenue and Customs: Repayment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor made a discretionary payment to a member of the public as an acknowledgement of error or mismanagement in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value of such repayments was in each such year. [295658]

Mr. Timms: The table provides the available information on discretionary payments made by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as a result of error or mismanagement. Corresponding data for Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise for the nine years prior to the formation of HMRC is not available.

	Discretionary payments	
	Number	*Value (£ million)*
2005-06	n/a	3.27
2006-07	n/a	2.46
2007-08	n/a	2.65
2008-09	21,221	2.69

Information on the number of payments made prior to 2008-09 is not available due to the use of a different classification schemes before this year.

Thalidomide Trust: Taxation

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether extraordinary factors have been taken into account in determining the taxation status of the Thalidomide Trust in the last 30 years; and if he will make a statement. [293899]

Mr. Timms: When the Thalidomide Trust was set up in 1974, it was subject to the same rules that govern payments from all discretionary trusts. Under those rules, payments from Trust income counted towards the victims' taxable income and also reduced their level of entitlement to tax credits.

In 2004, following consultation with the then Inland Revenue, the trust agreed to change the way it makes payments to victims so that they could be classified as "periodical" payments and potentially fall within the scope of legislation governing "structured settlements". The Treasury were then able to make use of a power bringing those periodical payments by the trustees to Thalidomide victims within the scope of a relief aimed at structured damages settlements arrived at by agreement between the parties or by order of a court.

The new legislation took effect from 5 August 2004, after which payments from the trust to victims have not counted as income for the purposes of calculating the victims' income tax liabilities or their entitlement to tax credits.

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of repeat abortions undertaken in relation to *(a)* married and *(b)* unmarried women aged (i) under 16, (ii) under 18, (iii) 18 or 19, (iv) between 20 and 29, (v) between 30 and 34 and (vi) 35 years and over in each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [295897]

Gillian Merron: The information is shown in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Diagnosis

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley), of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 802-3W, on cancer: diagnosis, whether his Department has plans for any hospital *(a)* building, *(b)* rebuilding and *(c)* renovation after the winding down of the existing major programme for renovating and rebuilding NHS hospitals. [295770]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are five large scale hospital building schemes (capital value over £100 million) currently going through the business case approvals process.

This Government's commitment to opening 100 new hospital schemes by 2010 has already been achieved. This has addressed the most serious and urgent deficiencies in the age and quality of the hospital estate. Fewer major hospital schemes are coming forward as a result and also because the type of facility required is changing as the national health service moves more services into primary care and community settings and provides more diagnostic and other specialist facilities such as elective care centres.

Contraceptives

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated expenditure on community contraceptive services for women *(a)* aged under 20 years and *(b)* aged 20 years and over was in (i) England and (ii) each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [295887]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in each primary care trust area began using each type of primary method of contraception following their first visit to a community contraceptive services facility in each year since 1997-98. [295892]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in table 15 of statistical bulletin NHS "Contraceptive Services, England 2008-09". Tables 5A to 5J of this document also contain data by strategic health authority. The document has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times each Minister within his Department has visited *(a)* an accident and emergency department, *(b)* an independent sector treatment centre, *(c)* a GP surgery, *(d)* an NHS dentist, *(e)* an urgent care centre, *(f)* a GP-led health centre and *(g)* a NHS hospital trust facility in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [294220]

Phil Hope: As part of their official duties, departmental Ministers visit a variety of accident and emergency departments, independent sector treatment centres, general practitioner (GP) surgeries, national health service dentists, urgent care centres, GP-led health centres and NHS hospital trust facilities. The following visits occurred during the period 15 October 2008 to 14 October 2009.

Visits by each Minister during the last 12 months were:

Alan Johnson

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 15 October 2008 - 5 June 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	0
GP surgery	3
NHS Dentist	0
Urgent care centre	0
GP-led health centre	6
NHS hospital trust facility	16

Andy Burnham

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 8 June 2009 - 14 October 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	0
GP surgery	1
NHS Dentist	0
Urgent care centre	0
GP-led health centre	0
NHS hospital trust facility	4

Lord Darzi

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 15 October 2008 - 21 July 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	0
GP surgery	1
NHS Dentist	1
Urgent care centre	1
GP-led health centre	4
NHS hospital trust facility	14

Ben Bradshaw

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 15 October 2008 - 5 June 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	1
GP surgery	1
NHS Dentist	1
Urgent care centre	0
GP-led health centre	3
NHS hospital trust facility	4

Mike O'Brien

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 8 June 2009 - 14 October 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	0
GP surgery	1
NHS Dentist	0
Urgent care centre	0
GP-led health centre	2
NHS hospital trust facility	5

Ann Keen

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 15 October 2008 - 14 October 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	2
GP surgery	0
NHS Dentist	0
Urgent care centre	0
GP-led health centre	0
NHS hospital trust facility	12

Dawn Primarolo

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 15 October 2008 - 5 June 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	0
GP surgery	0
NHS Dentist	0
Urgent care centre	0
GP-led health centre	0
NHS hospital trust facility	1

Gillian Merron

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 8 June 2009 - 14 October 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	0
GP surgery	0
NHS Dentist	0
Urgent care centre	0
GP-led health centre	0
NHS hospital trust facility	1

Phil Hope

Type of organisation	*Number of visits 15 October 2008 - 14 October 2009*
Independent sector treatment centre	0
GP surgery	0
NHS Dentist	0
Urgent care centre	0
GP-led health centre	1
NHS hospital trust facility	10

Eyesight: Testing

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency have received free eye tests since 1999. [295946]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service sight tests is available in Table B1 of Annex C of the "General Ophthalmic Services for England and Wales: Year Ending 31 March 2009" report. However, these are the number of NHS sight tests and are not a count of individuals.

Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA) but is not available by parliamentary constituency. Information at national and SHA level is available annually from 1996-97 to 2008-09. Information at PCT level is only available from 2003-04 onwards.

This report, published on 19 August 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity0809p2.

General Practitioners: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner surgeries in south Birmingham have offered extended opening hours in each quarter since April 2008. [296275]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of general practitioner (GP) surgeries, located in the area covered by South Birmingham primary care trust (PCT), offering extended opening hours between April 2008 and July 2009 is shown in the following table.

GP surgeries located in the area covered by South Birmingham PCT, offering extended opening hours

	Number
2008	
April	6
May	24
June	29
July	39
August	39
September	39
October	39
November	43
December	43
2009	
January	43
February	44
March	44
April	44
May	46
June	48
July	51

This information is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/PrimaryCare/DH_089459

Data since July 2009 are no longer centrally collected and can instead be obtained direct from the PCT.

Health Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have received treatment at York NHS walk-in centre in each year of its operation. [295232]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested in provided in the following table:

First attendances at North Yorkshire and York and Selby and York Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) walk in centre

Organisation name	*Year*	*Quarters*	*Number of first attendances at walk-in centres*	*Number of follow-up attendances at walk-in centres*	*Total attendances at walk-in centres*
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2009-10	1	5,012	268	5,280
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2008-09	1-4	19,781	1,063	20,844
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2007-08	1-4	21,861	1,066	22,927
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2006-07	3-4	11,322	421	11,743
Selby and York PCT	2006-07	1-2	11,663	932	12,595
Total	2006-07	1-4	22,985	1,353	24,338
Selby and York PCT	2005-06	1-4	17,994	10,064	28,058
Selby and York PCT	2004-05	1-4	18,810	17,384	36,194
Selby and York PCT	2003-04	1-4	23,074	16,147	39,221

Note:

Selby and York PCT merged to form North Yorkshire and York PCT in October 2006.

Source:

Department of Health dataset QMAF

HIV Infection

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage general practitioner surgeries in areas with high levels of HIV/AIDS to include an HIV test in their registration health checks; and if he will make a statement. [295562]

Gillian Merron: As part of the work the Department is undertaking to reduce the level of undiagnosed HIV in the population, and to make HIV testing outside specialist centres more routine, we are funding eight pilot projects (four in London) in a variety of settings to examine the feasibility and acceptability of HIV testing. The settings chosen include general practitioner surgeries, and we will be undertaking an evaluation of the pilots to determine their wider implementation.

This work follows publication of the UK National Guidelines for HIV Testing (2008) by the British HIV Association, British Association of Sexual Health and HIV and the British Infection Society. The work is also supported by the documents, "HIV in Primary Care" (2005), and "HIV for non-HIV specialists", (2008), both published by the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health. Additionally, in September 2007, the chief medical officer and chief nursing officer wrote to all doctors and nurses, highlighting best practice about offering HIV testing, where appropriate, in all healthcare settings.

The chief medical officer sent a further letter to Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties of Medicine in September 2009, encouraging them to take further action to diagnose HIV outside specialist settings.

Hospital beds: Elderly

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 75 years and over who had at least one emergency readmission to hospital in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2007 in (i) Vale of York constituency, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) England. [294570]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available from the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD) has been placed in the Library.

Further analyses from this source could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Hospitals: Parking

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 901W, on hospitals: parking, which back-office costs will be reduced; what benefits to outpatients will result from the improved concession guidance; and how such benefits will be funded; [295752]

(2) what calculations underlie his estimate of the cost per annum of phasing out car parking for in-patients and their visitors at hospitals; and what his estimate is of the annual cost of each element of the scheme; [295771]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of his proposals which can be afforded *(a)* in 2009-10 and *(b)* in 2010-11. [295772]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National health service organisations provide car parking to patients and visitors based on their local plans, needs and circumstances. Therefore, the details of implementing free car parking for in-patients will vary between different NHS organisations including the proportion that can be afforded in each year and which back-office costs will be reduced. However, all NHS organisations are expected to have fully implemented the change within three years. The improved concession guidance will benefit out-patients by stressing the importance of tangible concessions for regular users, particularly out-patients, and by ensuring that all eligible patients are made fully aware of them.

The estimate of annual cost per annum for phasing out in-patient car parking of £141 million was based on two figures. The direct cost of in-patient parking was based on the number of bed days recorded for elective, emergency and maternity care with each of the bed days resulting in two hours parking at the national average cost of visitor car parking per hour of £1.00 giving a total of £93 million. In addition, the impact of the NHS paying for private finance initiative and other commercial agreements was estimated at an additional £48 million.

Hypergonadism

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance the NHS issues to clinicians treating men with hypergonadism; [296246]

(2) whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence plans to produce guidance on the treatment of hypergonadism. [296247]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are not aware of any national guidance issued by the national health service on the treatment of hypergonadism. There are no plans for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce guidance on this subject.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his latest estimate is of the number of users of the Lorenzo software system at *(a)* Five Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust, *(b)* Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(c)* University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust, *(d)* Hereford Hospitals Trust and *(e)* South Birmingham Primary Care Trust; [295789]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the highest number of live concurrent users of the Lorenzo software system across English NHS trusts *(a)* at any one time and *(b)* on any one day. [295790]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The numbers of regular users of Release 1 of the Lorenzo software system in the national health service bodies concerned are as follows:

	Number
Five Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	43
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	12
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	96
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	7
South Birmingham Primary Care Trust	16

These figures exclude other registered users who use the system only occasionally.

The highest number of live concurrent users across English NHS trusts at any one time, to date, is 19. This occurred on 6 October 2009. The number of concurrent users of the system is lower than the aggregate number of regular users because clinicians spend the majority of their time working directly with patients. Time spent using the system is relatively short, and in most care settings, users will log in and log out of the system repeatedly throughout the day.

Nutrition: Mothers

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the nutritional value of food served in NHS hospitals to post-natal mothers who are breastfeeding. [295863]

Ann Keen: An appropriate diet, based on acceptable standards, requires good food with the right nutritional content, properly prepared and available when patients need it. The NHS Plan stipulated that dieticians should advise and check on nutritional values in hospital food and this role is undertaken locally by staff in national health service trusts. The assessment of the nutritional requirements of post-natal mothers who are breast feeding is a matter for local determination and the Department does not collect any data centrally.

Staff carrying out the assessments are assisted by availability of nutritional information within the 'National Dish Selector'—a resource compiled as part of the Better Hospital Food programme. Although this programme has now closed, its outputs are still available via the Hospital Caterers' Association website:

www.hospitalcaterers.org/.

The National Dish Selector is a database of recipes that can be searched by both recipe and ingredient. It is designed to be used by catering services as a resource from which to develop local menus with nutritional content appropriate to patients' needs.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have received a portion of the £286 million assigned by the Government for end-of-life care in the End of Life Care Strategy; and how much each has received. [295503]

Phil Hope: An additional £286 million revenue and capital funding is being made available over 2009-10 and 2010-11 to support the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy. For 2010-11, this includes capital funding of £40 million for hospices. However, the majority of the funding is being allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) through the 2009-10 and 2010-11 revenue allocations, so all PCTs will receive a portion of this funding.

The Department does not break down PCT allocations by policies at either national or local level. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account both local priorities and the NHS Operating Framework.

Pharmacy

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1614W, whether he plans to discuss a replacement of the prescription item threshold with a scale of remuneration for pharmacists with interested groups and representative bodies. [296250]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is currently no plan for such a discussion.

Pharmacy: Exports

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the practice of parallel exporting on the availability of pharmaceuticals to NHS patients. [295913]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 735W.

Pharmacy: Licensing

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last reviewed licensing arrangements for pharmaceutical wholesalers; and if he will make a statement. [295911]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an Executive agency of the Department, regulates manufacturers and wholesale dealers of medicinal products for human use in the United Kingdom on behalf of the UK.

The MHRA completed its last review of the licensing arrangements for pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesale distributors of medicines for human use in October 2005.

A further review of the supply chain for medicines in the UK is currently being conducted.

Sedation

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines the NHS issues on the use of continuous deep sedation until death; [296149]

(2) what assessment he has made of the rate of prevalence of continuous deep sedation until death in England; what information he holds for benchmarking purposes on the rates in other EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [296150]

Gillian Merron: No central guidance on the use of sufficient medication to keep a patient sedated until their death, known as continuous deep sedation, has been issued. This is a matter for the relevant clinicians, using their professional judgment and taking into account the circumstances and wishes of the individual patient or, where a patient is considered incapable of decision-making, the views of the patient's family on what he or she would wish. Data on the prevalence of continuous deep sedation in England, or in other European Union member states, are not held centrally.

Social Services: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many elderly people in *(a)* Birmingham, Northfield constituency and *(b)* Birmingham pay for social care services at home. [296274]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

However, where Birmingham city council has arranged home care for people it should be able to say how many of them it charges.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academy funding agreements entered into since 2007 have local authorities, schools, further education colleges or a partnership of such bodies acting as a sponsor or co-sponsor. [296147]

Mr. Coaker: The total number of local authorities, schools, further education colleges or a partnership of such bodies acting as a sponsor or co-sponsor which have entered into a funding agreement since 2007 is 74.

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of adopted children under the age of 18 in each local authority area. [295515]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on looked-after children can be found in our publication "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008", which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table LAE1, which is located within the third set of additional excel tables, gives a breakdown, by local authority, of the number of looked-after children who were adopted during the years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008. Information for the year ending 31 March 2009 will be published in December.

Our publication covers only looked-after children who were adopted. Information for all children that were adopted in England and Wales is published by the Office for National Statistics and is available from their website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product. asp?vlnk=15049

BECTA: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department plans to provide to BECTA in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293409]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I can confirm, in the following table, the details of the funding plans for the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta)/(Technologies Future Unit). The data are drawn from our Departmental Annual Report 2009, Table 8.4 on page 175.

	Departmental allocation (£ million)
2009-10 Plans	51
2010-11 Plans	20

Children: Day Care

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the number of committees registered with Ofsted for the provision of daycare and early years foundation stage on non-domestic premises which are composed mainly or exclusively of parents. [295564]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to the hon. Member and copies of her reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Although Ofsted does hold data about childcare on non-domestic premises run by a committee, these records do not state whether a committee is mainly or exclusively run by parents. It is, therefore, not possible to provide the requested information.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on their provision of support for vulnerable children suspected of having been trafficked under *(a)* section 20 and *(b)* section 17 of the Children Act 1989; and if he will make a statement. [291034]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* My noble Friend, Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, met officials from the London borough of Hillingdon in March this year to discuss work they are undertaking on child trafficking at Heathrow airport in partnership with the Metropolitan police. She is also a member of the Inter Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, which meets regularly to discuss such issues. It is for each local authority to shape the services they provide to meet the needs of their local population. Where a local authority identifies a child who requires support, including those that have been trafficked, they are then responsible for identifying appropriate services to meet their needs, including being kept safe from any likely significant harm.

Children: Protection

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* school governors and *(b)* members of management committees at early years childcare providers are subject to the requirement to register with (i) the Independent Safeguarding Authority and (ii) the vetting and barring scheme. [295557]

Dawn Primarolo: Both school governors and members of management committees at early year's child care providers are covered by the vetting and barring scheme and will have to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority when the requirements for registration are brought into force.

Children's Centres: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* Sure Start and *(b)* Children's Centres have been opened in (i) Derbyshire and (ii) North East Derbyshire constituency since 1997. [296067]

Dawn Primarolo: Derbyshire local authority has 46 Sure Start Children's Centres of which 11 are recorded as former Sure Start Local Programmes. Of these 46 children's centres, five are in the North East Derbyshire constituency, of which one is recorded as a former Sure Start Local Programme.

We are on track to achieve our target of at least 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres by March 2010, offering access to services for all children under five and their families. As of 31 August 2009 there were 3,059 centres operational in England, providing access to services for over 2.4 million children and their families.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on Sure Start Children's Centres in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency since the programme's inception. [296068]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding for Sure Start Children's Centres in Derbyshire and North East Derbyshire is provided to Derbyshire local authority as part of the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG). The local authority is responsible for managing Sure Start Children's Centres performance across its area and will decide how much to allocate to centres in each area.

The following table shows the spend on Children's Centres and Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) by Derbyshire local authority since the start of the programme. The Department will not receive audited figures for 2008-09 until the end of October 2009.

£

	Children's centres revenue	*Children's centres capital*	*SSLP revenue*
2003-04	0	0	3,028,718
2004-05	100,580	4,901	3,483,649
2005-06	[1]n/a	2,670,630	3,564,598
2006-07	[1]n/a	1,064,208	[1]n/a
2007-08	[1]n/a	2,662,713	[1]n/a

[1] In 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 Derbyshire local authority chose to pool its revenue funding in a Local Area Agreement (LAA) which was paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG, formerly the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, ODPM) as part of the LAA grant revenue. This funding was not ring fenced to SureStart activities; Derbyshire local authority had the freedom to spend the funding pooled in its Local Area Agreement in line with local priorities. The authority was not required to report details of its spend of Sure Start revenue to the Department.

Derbyshire local authority will hold full records of its Children's Centres and SSLP spend.

SSLPs were given multi year capital allocations from programme inception to the end of 2005-06. Therefore it is not possible to disaggregate allocations by financial year. Derbyshire received a capital allocation of £4,872,260 and spent £4,686,552 for the life of the programme.

From 2004-05 revenue funding for Children's centres was included within the wider SSEYCG Main Revenue block. Children's Centres capital funding was ring fenced in 2004-6 but from 2006-07 was included in the wider SSEYCG Main Capital block. Funding in these blocks is not ring fenced and the authority had the freedom to decide how much to spend on each area supported by the grant, in line with local priorities. these allocations are shown in the following table.

£

	2003-04	*2004-06*[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Children's centres capital	0	3,193,965	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Main capital (from 2006-07)	n/a	n/a	3,893,683	2,953,740	8,022,534	4,728,377
Main revenue (from 2004-05)	n/a	9,066,052	7,441,069	8,674,060	12,359,727	14,015,139
SSLP revenue	3,047,059	7,073,123	3,565,646	2,953,740	2,818,688	2,389,285

[1] In 2004-06 local authorities received a two year allocation for the Sure Start Grant. Therefore it has not been possible to disaggregate the allocations for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295455]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Secretary of State for the Department for Children, Schools and families (DCSF) hosted two Christmas functions in 2008. The cost of these events was approximately £2,136. This information was also published on 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Information on events hosted or attended by DCSF officials is not readily available and gathering this information would be at a disproportionate cost.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing public Money".

Class Sizes

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average size of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school classes was in (i) 1997, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2005 and (iv) the last year for which figures are available. [295424]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: average class size[3], as at January each year, in England

	Primary	*State-funded secondary*
1997	27.5	21.6
2002	26.3	21.9
2005	26.2	21.6
2009	26.2	20.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
Source:
School Census

Class Sizes: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* middle school and *(b)* upper school class size has been in each constituency in the East of England in each year since 1999. [296164]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The latest available information on class sizes can be found in the SFR "Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics: January 2009" at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

Classroom Assistants: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants have been appointed in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency since 1997. [296069]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of teaching assistant appointments is not collected centrally. Figures are however available for the number in service. The following table shows the number of teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools in Derbyshire local authority and North East Derbyshire constituency in January 1997 and 2009.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools[1], years January 1997 and 2009: Coverage: Derbyshire local authorities[2] and North East Derbyshire parliamentary constituency

	1997	*2009*
Former Derbyshire	1,180	—
Derbyshire (post 1 April 1997)	—	2,230
City of Derby	—	1,040
North East Derbyshire	70	260

[1] Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
[2] Derbyshire local authorities were re-organised with effect from 1 April 1997. The new authorities that make up the former Derbyshire area are shown for 2009.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Climate Change: Teaching Aids

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what materials his Department provides to schools on the subject of the environment and climate change. [295759]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's primary resource to support teaching about the environment and climate change is the Sustainable Schools website:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

The website offers a wide variety of informative and engaging materials to aid schools in their teaching of sustainability issues within the curriculum, including the environment and climate change.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency has also published "Sustainable development in action: A curriculum planning guide for schools" which includes cross-curriculum dimensions, reflecting some of the major ideas and challenges facing society.

In addition, through the Growing Schools programme, the Department has funded the Renewable World website:

www.renewableworld.org.uk

This is an innovative resource which allows pupils to explore the use of renewable and non-renewable materials in the past, present and future. This helps them understand that many of our cheap, oil-based products come at a high environmental cost, and to explore more sustainable options for the future.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on freelance press officers in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [293395]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is as follows:

	£
2001-02	[1]—
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	45,467
2005-06	57,624
2006-07	117,981
2007-08	60,771
2008-09	21,550
2009-10	0

[1] No figures retained

Departmental Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants were employed by his Department on a permanent basis in each of the last 12 months. [295349]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Statistics on employee headcount and full-time equivalents (FTE) for the Department for Children Schools and Families are published regularly through the Office for National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1094W, on departmental public expenditure, which individual programmes and corresponding allocations for 2010-11 are aggregated under each of the entries listed in the tables. [295507]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The reply given on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1095W, was already a breakdown of allocation on programme line basis. This is the lowest level of meaningful information we can provide and any further breakdown of these figures would be on departmental account code basis.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department and its predecessor has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294974]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department holds records centrally of 21 policy-specific helplines which it sponsors. A full survey would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not participate in revenue share schemes associated with non-geographic telephone numbers (e.g. 0870) and therefore derives no revenue from their use.

Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend on one-to-one tuition in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [296263]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: A total of £468 million funding has been set aside for one-to-one tuition over the CSR period. The one-to-one tuition funding is ring-fenced to local authorities (LAs) as part of the standards fund grant.

In the spring and summer terms 2009 £15 million was provided for 36,000 tuition places in years five and six across all LAs. LAs reported that their schools delivered over 38,000 tuition places as part of this early roll out of the programme, with some LAs funding additional places from their own budgets.

For the academic year 2009/10, £138 million will support 3.5 per cent. of the key stage 2, and key stage 3 (and in National Challenge schools key stage 4) cohorts in each of English and mathematics. All LAs are now working with their primary and secondary schools towards delivering their full 2009/10 allocation of tuition places.

For 2010/11 funding rises to £315 million to support 300,000 pupils in English and 300,000 children in mathematics. Allocations and funding for tuition places in 2010/11 will be notified to LAs next month.

Faith Schools: Finance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants have been made by his Department to independent faith schools in each of the last five years; which schools received such grants; what the denomination was of each such school; and against what criteria determinations of such grants were made. [296533]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This question can be answered only at disproportionate expense.

Family Intervention Projects: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many family intervention projects there have been in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency. [295309]

Dawn Primarolo: There are two family intervention projects in Derbyshire. One of these serves North East Derbyshire constituency.

Family Intervention Projects: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to family intervention projects in each of the next three years. [294429]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government allocated £35.5 million for family intervention projects in 2009-10 and are planning to allocate £57.1 million Government funding in 2010-11, an increase of 61 per cent. In addition there is anticipated match funding of £9.5 million from Registered Social Landlords, Housing Associations and Youth Offending Teams. Departmental budgets, and therefore the funding for Family Intervention Projects, have yet to be determined beyond March 2011. Decisions will be made following Spending Review discussions once the Department's settlement is agreed.

GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 929W, on children: disadvantaged, how many and what proportion of *(a)* all pupils and *(b)* pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain a GCSE at a grade higher than a D in 2008. [286809]

Mr. Coaker: 126,868 pupils did not attain a GCSE at a grade higher than a D in 2007/08. This represents 21.3 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.

31,644 pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain a GCSE at a grade higher than a D in 2007/08. This represents 42.4 per cent. of eligible pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.

Note:

Other equivalent qualifications to GCSEs are not included in this answer. Only full GCSEs (including double awards) have been considered.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* ineligible for free school meals did not sit GCSE examinations in five or more subjects in (i) 2008, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2005. [287530]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table.

Pupils at the end of key stage 4 who did not sit GCSE or equivalent examinations in five or more subjects

	FSM pupils		*Non-FSM pupils*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005	10,9[illegible]	13.8	23,829	4.8
2006	10,911	14.0	25,456	4.9
2007	10,569	13.8	26,203	5.0
2008	8,704	11.7	21,716	4.2

Note:

These figures have been derived from the National Pupil Database and cover pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools only.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals did not obtain a C grade or above in *(a)* any GCSE, *(b)* mathematics GCSE and *(c)* English GCSE in 2009. [295291]

Mr. Coaker: Information on GCSE attainment by pupil characteristics for the 2008/09 academic year is not yet available. The first results from this data will be published in December 2009.

GCSE: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children at schools in Enfield North constituency obtained five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C or equivalent in each year since 1997. [294196]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the table. Data for 2009 are not provided because the Department does not publish results below local authority level until it has been checked by schools. This data will be available after the publication of the Achievement and Attainment Tables in mid January.

Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools in North Enfield constituency achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent[1] at grades A-C, 1996/97 to 2007/08[2]*

	Number of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A-C*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C*
2007/08	897	54.7
2006/07	830	52.4
2005/06	796	51.0
2004/05	795	51.7
2003/04	774	49.5
2002/03	745	48.7
2001/02	678	43.9
2000/01	681	43.9
1999/2000	612	40.9
1998/99	641	44.1
1997/98	528	37.3
1996/97	562	38.4

[1] From 1997/98 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2003/04 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.
[2] Figures for 2005/06 onwards are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Data for previous years are based on pupils aged 15 years old at the start of the academic year.

Gifted Children: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in Leeds West constituency have participated in gifted and talented programmes in the last academic year. [295348]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect data on which pupils in schools are on gifted and talented programmes. Through the school census, schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. According to the January 2009 census, 663 (9.8 per cent.) of pupils in maintained primary schools and 372 (10.1 per cent.) of pupils in maintained secondary schools were identified as gifted and talented in the Leeds West constituency.

Headteachers

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many executive heads and executive directors of secondary schools there are in England; and what the salary range is. [296145]

Mr. Coaker: The term 'executive head' is used to describe a variety of roles, including head teachers who are responsible and accountable for more than one school, either as a temporary or permanent arrangement, instead of there being a head teacher for each individual school; or head teachers who are responsible and accountable for the day-to-day management of their own schools but in addition provide a service to another school.

The term "executive director" is also used to describe a number of different roles such as an individual who is appointed across a number of schools, each of which has its own head teacher and governing body responsible and accountable for the day-to-day management of that school.

Because there is currently no common definition of "executive head" or "executive director", no figures are available on the numbers of posts that are being described in this way.

Following the School Teacher's Review Body's (STRB) recommendation that the Department should investigate and clarify the role and status of the various models of "executive head", research has been commissioned to define and evaluate these models. The results of the research will feed into a future remit to the STRB which will focus on long term leadership pay arrangements that take full account of the emerging models of school leadership.

Interim changes were introduced into the STPCD from September 2009 to reflect emerging leadership models, including recognition for heads who become responsible for running more than one school either on a permanent or temporary basis. The provisions in the STPCD provide for employers to determine a salary for heads who take on responsibility for running more than one school that is above the top of the leadership pay spine (£109,658 in Inner London and £102,734 elsewhere). It is a matter for individual employers to determine the appropriate salary that takes account of the nature and challenge of the responsibilities associated with running more than one school.

Languages: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools which offered modern language GCSEs no pupil received a GCSE in a modern language at grades A* to C in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [illegible]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not hold information on which subjects are offered by schools.

The following table is based on exam entries.

Mainstream maintained schools in which no pupil at the end of key stage 4 achieved a grade C or above in a modern foreign language GCSE

	Schools with more than 10 pupils attempting a modern foreign language GCSE	*Schools with 1-10 pupils attempting a modern foreign language GCSE*	*Total*	
			Number	*Percentage*
2005	3	59	62	2.0
2006	1	76	77	2.5
2007	1	100	101	3.3

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

In order to protect confidentiality, it would not be possible to name schools with 10 or fewer pupils entering a modern foreign language GCSE.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will reply to the hon. Member for Christchurch's letter of 16 September 2009 on the Mediabox project, The Dreamwalkers. [296420]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has no record of that letter being received. If the hon. Member forwards a copy of the letter to the Department it will be answered in line with Whitehall standards.

National Council for Educational Excellence

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times the National Council for Educational Excellence has met since 1 January 2009; and which Ministers attended those meetings. [296146]

Mr. Coaker: There was one meeting of the full National Council for Educational Excellence on 16 July 2009 at Acland Burghley School. I attended along with my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the Prime Minister, the Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property and my hon. Friend, the Under-Secretary of State for 14-19 Reform and Apprenticeships.

Primary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were being taught in primary schools with over 800 pupils in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [295290]

Mr. Coaker: In 1997 there were 9,266 sole registered pupils (headcount) being taught in primary schools with over 800 pupils. The equivalent figure for 2009 is 14,127 pupils. Information is sourced from the school census.

Primary Education: Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and for what reasons primary school pupils of each age were given a fixed-period exclusion in 2007-08. [293359]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of fixed period exclusions from primary schools by age and reason for exclusion, and the number of pupils excluded by age, is shown in the table.

Pupils can be excluded more than once, and each exclusion can be for a different reason, therefore the number of exclusions by reason for pupils cannot be calculated.

Primary schools[1]: Number of fixed period exclusions by age and reason for exclusion, and the number of times pupil enrolments[2] were excluded by age[3], England 2007/08

	Age[3]									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
Number of instances of exclusion (pupils can have multiple exclusions):										
Physical assault against a pupil	20	310	630	770	1,250	1,830	2,480	3,330	60	10,690
Physical assault against an adult	10	520	1,120	1,160	1,160	1,120	1,060	910	20	7,090
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	[4]—	30	60	120	240	400	620	850	20	2,330
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	[4]—	50	180	310	540	840	1,380	1,900	40	5,260
Bullying	0	[4]—	20	20	40	50	120	220	10	460
Racist abuse	0	0	10	10	50	80	120	130	[4]—	390
Sexual misconduct	0	10	20	10	30	30	60	80	[4]—	240
Drug and alcohol related	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—	10	20	0	40
Damage	0	10	30	50	120	140	220	290	10	860
Theft	0	[4]—	10	10	40	50	80	130	[4]—	320
Persistent disruptive behaviour	[4]—	200	670	960	1,690	2,230	3,240	3,730	70	12,800
Other	[4]—	50	110	150	270	420	760	1,030	40	2,830
Total	40	1,190	2,850	3,570	5,420	7,190	10,140	12,620	280	43,290
Number of pupil enrolments excluded[2]	30	640	1,360	1,710	2,710	3,670	5,290	6,910	150	22,460

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or moved schools during the year.

[3] Age as at 31st August 2007.

[4] Less than 5.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Private Education: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the average annual sum spent per pupil in the private educational sector; and if he will make a statement. [295243]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not collect data from the independent sector. However, the hon. Member may be interested to know that the Independent Schools Council (ISC) conducts an annual census and information for independent day school fees can be found on their website on:

http://www.isc.co.uk/

Pupils: Absenteeism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have had one or more periods of absence from school for more than a week due to serious illness in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since 1999. [296364]

Mr. Coaker: Information is not available in the form requested.

The latest available information on absence where the reason code is illness (not medical or dental) is available in the SFR 'Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn Term 2008 and Spring Term 2009' at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000882/index.shtml

The latest available figures for a full year are available in the SFR 'Pupil Absence in Schools in England, including Pupil Characteristics: 2007/08' at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000832/index.shtml

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each local education authority area are entitled to free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [295241]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information on free school meals is published as part of the Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics SFR: January 2009, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

The data regarding nursery and primary schools are contained in Table 11a, the data for State-funded Secondary schools are in Table 11b and the data for Special schools are in Table 11c.

Pupils: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil to teacher ratio has been in each local education authority in the East of England at key stage *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 in each year since 1999. [296167]

Mr. Coaker: Information on pupil to teacher ratios (PTR) by key stage is not collected centrally. Figures are however available for the within school PTR by phase of education. The following table shows the number of pupil to teacher ratios in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in each local authority within the east of England Government office region, January 1997 to 2009.

Within school pupil: teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[2]. Years: January 1997 to 2009. Coverage: Local authorities in the East of England

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Nursery													
Former Cambridgeshire	19.1	18.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	16.3	17.9	16.3	13.9	13.6	13.2	13.9	14.4	13.5	12.5	13.7
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	20.9	15.1	20.0	16.0	14.7	11.4	11.6	13.0	14.6	14.7	18.0
Norfolk	19.1	18.7	24.5	—	17.3	15.6	13.6	12.2	14.5	11.9	13.1	13.5	15.3
Suffolk	22.9	23.9	22.9	19.1	22.9	23.4	23.4	23.2	21.5	21.5	21.6	20.9	19.0
Former Bedfordshire	19.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	18.6	17.9	16.0	16.3	15.9	17.1	16.8	18.7	16.2	18.5	16.9	15.6
Luton	n/a	22.8	20.1	—	15.8	15.4	14.1	14.6	14.4	12.8	13.1	13.7	14.5
Former Essex	18.6	17.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	16.6	19.5	15.1	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.7	14.5	14.3	14.6
Southend-on-Sea	n/a	n/a	—	19.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thurrock	n/a	n/a	—	23.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	18.4	18.1	19.4	16.1	18.3	16.6	16.9	17.3	17.2	18.4	16.9	16.6	16.2
East of England	18.8	19.0	19.0	17.8	17.0	15.8	15.6	15.3	15.9	15.3	15.4	15.1	15.4
Primary													
Former Cambridgeshire	24.4	24.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	25.0	23.5	24.1	23.3	23.7	23.6	23.6	22.9	22.2	22.5	22.3
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	24.2	23.2	23.0	22.9	23.1	23.2	22.5	21.9	21.8	22.0	21.5
Norfolk	22.3	22.5	22.7	22.8	22.1	23.0	21.7	22.3	22.1	21.3	21.1	21.4	20.8
Suffolk	22.3	22.2	22.0	22.7	22.0	21.5	21.7	21.7	21.5	21.1	20.7	20.1	20.0
Former Bedfordshire	23.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire (post 1 April 1997	n/a	23.8	23.8	22.3	22.9	22.3	22.6	22.8	23.0	22.2	22.1	21.5	21.5
Luton	n/a	22.7	22.6	23.4	22.9	22.7	23.5	23.5	23.4	23.6	22.8	22.1	21.5
Former Essex	23.0	23.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	23.5	23.2	22.9	22.8	23.0	23.2	22.9	22.5	22.4	21.9	21.8
Southend-on-Sea	n/a	n/a	24.0	23.2	23.5	23.0	23.3	22.8	23.0	22.2	22.1	21.2	21.6
Thurrock	n/a	n/a	23.9	22.1	22.8	21.8	23.6	24.9	25.0	23.3	22.8	23.1	22.4
Hertfordshire	22.9	23.0	23.0	24.6	23.0	22.8	23.0	23.0	22.5	22.4	23.2	22.7	22.6
East of England	23.0	23.3	23.3	23.1	22.8	22.7	22.8	22.9	22.7	22.2	22.1	21.9	21.7
Secondary													
Former Cambridgeshire	17.4	17.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	18.1	18.7	18.7	18.1	18.2	18.7	18.3	18.2	18.3	17.5	17.2
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	16.7	17.2	17.2	17.3	17.4	17.0	16.9	16.5	16.5	16.6	16.5
Norfolk	15.7	16.1	16.2	18.5	16.9	17.5	17.1	17.3	17.6	17.0	17.2	17.3	17.1
Suffolk	16.6	16.5	16.6	16.6	17.1	16.9	16.9	17.2	17.0	17.2	17.0	16.6	16.5
Former Bedfordshire	17.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Within school pupil: teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[2]. Years: January 1997 to 2009. Coverage: Local authorities in the East of England

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Bedfordshire (post 1 April 1997	n/a	18.3	18.5	17.3	18.8	18.4	18.7	18.4	18.7	18.3	18.0	18.0	17.3
Luton	n/a	16.7	16.9	16.9	17.9	18.0	17.9	17.7	18.5	17.8	18.6	17.8	16.7
Former Essex	16.6	16.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	16.8	17.1	17.5	17.5	17.6	18.0	17.4	17.3	17.3	16.8	16.4
Southend-on-Sea	n/a	n/a	16.4	16.6	16.8	17.2	17.3	17.7	17.9	18.2	18.2	17.6	17.5
Thurrock	n/a	n/a	18.0	16.9	18.9	19.8	19.8	20.8	19.9	18.7	19.0	19.2	19.1
Hertfordshire	15.9	16.1	16.3	18.7	16.7	16.8	17.0	17.1	16.8	16.7	16.4	16.3	16.0
East of England	16.6	16.7	16.9	17.2	17.4	17.5	17.5	17.7	17.5	17.3	17.2	17.0	16.7

n/a = Not applicable

'—' = Negligible

[1] The within school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

[2] Excludes academies and city technology colleges.

Note:

For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend per school pupil in each local education authority in the East of England in 2009-10; and how much has been spent in each such authority in each academic year since 1999-2000. [296166]

Mr. Coaker: Per pupil revenue funding figures for pupils aged three to 19 for local authorities in the East of England between 1999-2000 and 2005-06 are shown in table 1. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Table 1: Local authority revenue funding per pupil

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	£ *2005-06*
Bedfordshire	3,360	3,660	3,860	3,980	4,040	4,200	4,410
Cambridgeshire	3,200	3,480	3,610	3,700	3,890	4,050	4,260
Essex	3,450	3,710	3,890	3,980	4,090	4,250	4,430
Hertfordshire	3,440	3,690	3,870	3,970	4,050	4,210	4,370
Luton	3,720	3,970	4,180	4,310	4,500	4,650	4,900
Norfolk	3,360	3,620	3,800	3,900	3,990	4,160	4,360
Peterborough	3,530	3,770	3,920	4,080	4,290	4,500	4,720
Southend-on-Sea	3,550	3,810	4,020	4,130	4,200	4,370	4,560
Suffolk	3,260	3,500	3,660	3,760	3,840	4,000	4,190
Thurrock	3,630	3,870	4,090	4,210	4,330	4,530	4,650

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 29 September 2008.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DFES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in table 2 is taken from the dedicated schools grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 (in table 1 above) because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2008-09 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06 (the baseline); as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. The per pupil revenue funding figures for 2005-06 to 2008-09 (in financial years) for local authorities in the East of England are provided in Table 2. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to19 and are in real terms.

Table 2

£

	2005-06 DSG (baseline) plus grants per pupil	*2006-07 DSG plus grants per pupil*	*2007-08 DSG plus grants per pupil*	*2008-09 DSG plus grants per pupil*
Bedfordshire	3,970	4,100	4,260	4,320
Cambridgeshire	3,950	4,070	4,210	4,280
Essex	4,130	4,240	4,390	4,450
Hertfordshire	4,160	4,250	4,390	4,500
Luton	4,540	4,730	4,920	4,960
Norfolk	4,110	4,210	4,360	4,410
Peterborough	4,410	4,550	4,700	4,790
Southend-on-Sea	4,340	4,460	4,590	4,620
Suffolk	3,970	4,100	4,260	4,320
Thurrock	4,290	4,490	4,670	4,700

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated schools grant, school standards grant, school standards grant (personalisation) and standards fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 29 September 2009.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

As the 2009-10 grant data that feed into this series are not yet finalised, comparable figures for 2009-10 are not yet available.

In order to provide a per pupil figure for 2009-10, the guaranteed unit of funding for local authorities in the east of England is provided in table 3. This does not include other grants such as standards fund grants and LSC funding that is included above in tables 1 and 2, and only covers pupils aged three to 15.

Table 3: DSG guaranteed unit of funding

2009-10	*£*
Luton	4,402
Bedford Borough	3,998
Central Bedfordshire	3,938
Cambridgeshire	3,926
Peterborough	4,246
Essex	4,067
Southend-on-Sea	4,171
Thurrock	4,291
Hertfordshire	4,039
Norfolk	3,945
Suffolk	3,900

Note:

This includes the two new authorities as of 2009-10: Bedford borough and central Bedfordshire.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the per pupil funding for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children in Birmingham was in each of the last five years. [296204]

Mr. Coaker: The per pupil revenue funding figures for primary and secondary school pupils for Birmingham local authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms.

Real terms revenue funding per pupil: EFS plus grants

£

	2004-05		*2005-06*	
	Primary (aged 3-10)	*Secondary (aged 11-15)*	*Primary (aged 3-10)*	*Secondary (aged 11-15)*
Birmingham local authority	4,250	5,430	4,570	5,760

Notes:

1. Price base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 29 September 2009.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education formula spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three to 15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the new dedicated schools grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above, this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 (baseline) to 2008-09 for Birmingham local authority are provided in the following table. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. The following figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms.

Real terms revenue funding per pupil: DSG plus grants

£

	2005-06 (baseline)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Birmingham local authority	4,820	4,990	5,180	5,240

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the dedicated schools grant, school standards grant, school standards grant (personalisation) and standards fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 29 September 2009.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Pupils: Special Educational Needs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs there were in each year since 1997. [296258]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested on pupils with special educational needs is published annually by my Department.

Figures for 2005 to 2009 were published in the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2009", which can be accessed at (tables 1a and 1b):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/index.shtml

Figures for 2003 and 2004 were published in the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2007", which can be accessed at (tables 1a and 1b):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

Figures for 1997 to 2002 were published in the Statistical Bulletin "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2002", which can be accessed at (tables 1a and 1b):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000367/index.shtml

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account he has taken of the most recent population projections provided by the Office of National Statistics in assessing the adequacy of provision of school places at reception and year 1 in *(a)* the academic year beginning September 2009 and *(b)* each of the next 10 years. [296128]

Mr. Coaker: Central Government funding to support local provision of school places is decided some time in advance, partly because of the time needed for the building of new capacity and partly to respond to local authorities' longstanding plea for a degree of funding certainty. So the central Government decisions on allocating capital funding for school places in 2009, 2010 and 2011 were made some time ago, using pupil number forecasts provided to my Department from local authorities.

Over the last few months, it has become clear that in some localities the rise in child population has been steeper than had been allowed for. So on 15 July, we announced an allocation of £200 million for authorities which are experiencing and forecasting exceptionally high rates of growth in demand for reception places to 2011, to support the provision of permanent places where there is greatest need. DCSF is currently appraising applications and aims to make an announcement shortly.

We are about to begin work with authorities on the design of our future approach to deploying capital support to local authorities. That work will draw on the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) projections.

Schools: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school refurbishment in (i) Derbyshire and (ii) North East Derbyshire constituency since 1997. [296066]

Mr. Coaker: Capital allocations are made on a local authority basis, and are then prioritised locally. Similarly, local authorities determine the relative spend on primary and secondary schools. Accordingly, there is no central record of spend for North East Derbyshire, or of the split between primary and secondary schools.

School capital allocations to Derbyshire for school improvement, during the 14 year period 1996-97 to 2009-10, total £633 million. The local authority will also have spent revenue funding on those elements of refurbishment that are of a revenue nature. The total referred to above includes an allocation of nearly £115 million for the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of his Department's budget was allocated directly by his Department and not devolved to schools or local authorities in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [293399]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The proportion of our budget allocated directly by the Department and not devolved to schools or local authorities in 2008-09 is set out in the following table.

	Percentage
Youth Taskforce	13.66
14-19 Reform Group	0.01
Sure start	0.46
Early Years Extended Schools and Special Needs Group	0.10
Families	0.37
Safeguarding	0.07
Supporting Delivery	0.15
School Standards	1.23
School Resources	3.91
Academies and Capital	0.13
Workforce Strategy	0.02
Support directorates	0.20
School Performance and Reform	0.01
Total	20.32

Schools: Hearing Impaired Pupils

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the level of compliance of schools with the acoustic requirements of deaf and hard of hearing pupils in classrooms; and if he will make a statement. [295669]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We are working closely with the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) who have collated information from local authorities on acoustic conditions in classrooms, to help ensure that the needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing are met.

As a result of this work, acoustics testing will now be made a contractual requirement for all Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects in England. This means that no funding will be signed off for a BSF project without a commitment to having the £6,000 acoustic test. More information on our proposals can be found in the written ministerial statement of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 51-52WS on auditory standards for school buildings, laid by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91019wms0001.htm#0910193000049

The Department does not assess schools' level of compliance with acoustic requirements of deaf and hard of hearing pupils centrally.

Schools: Inspections

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the 2005 Ofsted Framework for Inspecting Maintained Schools in England. [295566]

Mr. Coaker: A copy of the July 2005 version of the "Framework for the inspection of schools in England from September 2005" has been placed in the Libraries.

Schools: Mental Health

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what strategies his Department has considered to raise awareness of mental health issues in schools. [296490]

Dawn Primarolo: As the key universal service for children, schools play an important role in the promotion of better emotional health and resilience and early intervention where mental health problems may arise. There are a number of programmes in schools that increase awareness of mental health issues for children and young people. These include the Healthy Schools Programme and Targeted Mental Health in Schools.

The Healthy Schools Programme requires schools to have policies and practices in place to support emotional health and wellbeing, including identifying children at risk of experiencing behavioural, emotional or social difficulties. Currently 99 per cent. of schools in England are working towards or have achieved Healthy School status.

The Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) programme is developing models of mental health support in schools for those children, young people and their families who need it most. The project includes training for school staff to equip them with the knowledge and ability to identify problems early, to work with and support children and young people at risk of experiencing mental health problems and to refer them to appropriate mental health professionals, as necessary. It also provides mental health awareness and promotion for children, young people and families. Funded by £60 million between 2008 and 2011, the programme is currently operating in 80 local authorities. From September 2010 TaMHS will be operating in clusters of schools in all areas.

There are other school based programmes that also promote better emotional wellbeing. Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) is a comprehensive voluntary programme to develop the social and emotional skills of all pupils, while the new personal wellbeing programme of study within Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education includes a specific focus on issues relating to emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Schools: Standards

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* all schools and *(b)* Catholic schools Ofsted rated as excellent or very good against its respect for others measure on the latest date for which figures are available. [293956]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my right hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted does not have a judgement which relates directly to 'respect for others'. The inspection judgement that most closely approximates to 'respect for others' is 'The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'. In forming the judgement, inspectors take account of:

Learners' response to spiritual and moral issues, such as their attitudes to bullying, and their effective discussion in lessons

the quality of learners' social development as expressed through their relationships with their peers and with adults

learners' understanding of Britain as a diverse society and their readiness to engage with others from a different cultural background

the extent to which they embrace the shared values of the community and contribute to its cohesiveness.

Under the school inspection frameworks used between January 2000 and August 2005 (commonly known as section 10), the school's overall effectiveness judgement was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. From September 2005 to September 2009, the overall effectiveness judgement was made under the school inspection framework commonly known as Section 5, using a four point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate. It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from 2000 to the present, using these different systems.

The latest period for which published figures are available is the spring term 2008/09. This answer, therefore, takes into account all inspections carried out prior to 3 April 2009. At that time, there were still some schools that had not yet been inspected under the section 5 framework.

For the purposes of answering this question, excellent or very good are interpreted as being analogous to outstanding as defined under the Section 5 inspection framework.

Of all the schools open on 4 April 2009 and having received an Ofsted inspection, 35% were judged as outstanding under section 5, or as excellent or very good under section 10, at their last inspection in respect of 'the extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'.

Of all Roman Catholic schools open on 4 April 2009 and having received an Ofsted inspection, 51% were judged as outstanding under section 5, or as excellent or very good under section 10, at their last inspection in respect of 'the extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Uniforms

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities offer grants to parents to purchase uniforms; and which local authorities offered such grants in 1997. [296135]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Local authorities have a discretionary power to provide school clothing grants or to help with the cost of school clothing in cases of financial hardship. Local authorities that choose to offer such grants set their own criteria for eligibility.

The Department does not collect data on which local authorities provide school clothing grants.

Science: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of science teachers specialised in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology in the latest year for which figures are available. [288351]

Mr. Coaker: The specialisms of science teachers in maintained secondary schools in England were collected as part of the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey. This is an occasional survey that does not provide a full time series.

The following table gives data from the 2007 survey, the most recent survey available, for full-time equivalent teachers. It shows the percentage of science teachers who had a specialism in each science specialism[1] and the percentages of occurrences for each specialism:

[1] In this case, a specialism is any post A-level qualification (including degrees, BEds, PGCEs, Certificates in Education and other post A-level qualifications) in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Other Science.

Science teachers' science specialisms, England, 2007

	Percentage of teachers	Percentage of specialisms
Biology	40	32
Chemistry	27	22
Physics	27	22
Other science	20	16
Non-science subject	10	8
Total	124	100

Note:
Base: 35,720 teachers and 44,022 cases of specialism
Source:
Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey, 2007

Some teachers had a qualification that covered more than one science subject, so the teacher figures sum to more than 100 per cent. Teachers were only double counted if they held qualifications in more than one of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics specialisms, otherwise they were only included in one category. A teacher with more than one qualification in the same subject was counted only once against that specialism.

The second set of figures shows the percentage of specialisms. Where qualifications covered more than one science subject, equal weight was given to each subject when recalculating to sum to 100 per cent.. The analysis did not take into account how many periods were taught by a teacher, so the specialism of a teacher who taught one period of science was given an equal weight to a teacher who taught 20 periods of science.

Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools with more than *(a)* 500, *(b)* 1,000, *(c)* 1,500, *(d)* 2,000 and *(e)* 2,500 pupils there were in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [295289]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the table.

State funded secondary schools: number of schools by size[1, 2, 3, 4], January 1997 and 2009, England

Schools of size	1997	2009
More than 500 pupils	3,016	3,002
More than 1,000 pupils	1,155	1,494
More than 1,500 pupils	136	294
More than 2,000 pupils	6	26
More than 2,500 pupils	0	3
All state funded secondary schools	3,584	3,361

[1] Based on headcount of pupils, excludes dual registrations.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes CTCs and academies.
[4] Schools are counted against each relevant row e.g. those in 'more than 1,000' are also in 'more than 500'.
Source:
School Census.

Secondary Education: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of trends in levels of applications to secondary schools in the Milton Keynes area. [295618]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Since 2008, local authorities have been required to provide data to the Secretary of State on secondary school offers made on the day that parents are notified of their school places. This year's data were published on 12 March 2009 and can be accessed in the SFR 'Secondary School Applications and Offers' at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000833/index.shtml

This year, figures for Milton Keynes local authority show that, of the 2,853 applications received from parents living within the local authority area, 87.3 per cent. were offered their first choice school and 97.5 per cent. were offered a place at one of their first three choices.

Special Educational Needs: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to special needs provision in each county in the east of England in each year since 1999. [296165]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The available information on how much funding has been allocated to special needs provision in each local authority in the east of England in each year since 1999 is contained within the following tables. Data are not available prior to 2000-01:

Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England since 2000-01

	Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs (£)				
Local authority name	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
England	2,763,226,000	2,908,380,000	3,038,661,000	3,466,180,000	3,774,757,000

Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England since 2000-01

	Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs (£)				
Local authority name	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
East of England GOR	262,754,000	281,293,000	296,178,000	339,448,000	371,652,000
Pre-LGR Bedfordshire	19,250,000	21,011,000	18,838,000	24,669,000	26,198,000
Bedford Borough					
Central Bedfordshire					
Cambridgeshire	31,017,000	33,352,000	36,290,000	44,958,000	42,980,000
Essex	62,904,000	68,285,000	69,328,000	75,876,000	81,359,000
Hertfordshire	54,162,000	56,668,000	55,427,000	63,654,000	71,970,000
Luton	9,136,000	9,321,000	14,765,000	15,673,000	17,867,000
Norfolk	34,824,000	37,782,000	38,304,000	42,233,000	44,946,000
Peterborough	12,325,000	13,410,000	14,787,000	16,936,000	18,620,000
Southend	8,867,000	10,222,000	10,653,000	13,096,000	15,107,000
Suffolk	22,845,000	23,452,000	29,012,000	32,374,000	41,529,000
Thurrock	7,425,000	7,788,000	8,774,000	9,979,000	11,076,000

	Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs (£)				
Local authority name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England	4,120,549,000	4,481,245,000	4,863,604,000	5,094,462,000	5,188,035,000
East of England GOR	393,061,000	431,678,000	473,841,000	512,326,000	525,968,000
Pre-LGR Bedfordshire	27,455,000	31,224,000	32,013,000	32,719,000	—
Bedford Borough	—	—	—	—	12,814,000
Central Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	19,468,000
Cambridgeshire	45,120,000	47,217,000	48,756,000	51,210,000	49,710,000
Essex	87,946,000	96,982,000	103,046,000	126,001,000	131,637,000
Hertfordshire	75,794,000	79,344,000	87,928,000	93,423,000	95,860,000
Luton	17,431,000	21,541,000	23,164,000	22,377,000	22,466,000
Norfolk	48,604,000	51,472,000	60,953,000	69,471,000	71,983,000
Peterborough	20,337,000	23,188,000	24,838,000	23,747,000	24,273,000
Southend	15,810,000	19,076,000	21,469,000	21,455,000	23,113,000
Suffolk	43,991,000	50,159,000	57,750,000	58,210,000	55,134,000
Thurrock	10,574,000	11,475,000	13,926,000	13,712,000	19,509,000

Notes:

1. The data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DCSF (formally the DfES).

2. Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.

3. The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN and, from 2004-05 onwards, "notional SEN" delegated to nursery schools was reported on Section 52 for the first time (nursery schools "notional SEN" accounts for £7.8 million, £9.5 million, £10.4 million, £11.1 million and £11.7 million of the respective 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 England totals). In 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 local authorities in England also budgeted £499.6 million, £528.5 million, £554.9 million and £552.6 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the above table as figures are not available prior to 2005-06.

4. Bedfordshire LA ceased to exist and became two new authorities (Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire) as part of the LGR on 1 April 2009.

5. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 23 October 2009.

Sure Start Programme: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start centres are *(a)* open and *(b)* planned to open in Birmingham. [296206]

Dawn Primarolo: Birmingham local authority has 69 designated Sure Start Children's Centres, with plans for a further six centres to be designated by March 2010.

We are on track to achieve our target of at least 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres by March 2010, offering access to services for all children under five and their families. As of 31 August 2009 there were 3,059 centres operational in England, providing access to services for over 2.4 million children and their families.

Teachers: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to amend the Teachers' Pension Scheme entitlements for scheme members on high salaries. [295679]

Mr. Coaker: The provisions of public service pension schemes, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme, are kept under review to ensure they are appropriate and sustainable at all levels.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many entrants to undergraduate teacher training courses did not have any qualifications at A2 level or higher in the latest year for which figures are available. [295288]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is given in the table and shows the number and percentage of entrants to undergraduate initial teacher training (ITT) courses by their highest qualification on entry. Qualifications included in the "Other" category might be higher than A-level and can include trainees who have A-levels. Information relating specifically to entrants with no qualifications at advanced level is not available.

Undergraduate trainees represent 24 per cent. of trainees on mainstream ITT courses in 2007/08.

Undergraduate entrants to ITT courses by their highest qualification on entry 2007/08, England

Highest qualification on entry	*Mainstream* Number	*Mainstream* Percentage	*Employment based* Number	*Employment based* Percentage
With A or AS	4,330	57.9	0	0.0
GNVQ	10	0.1	0	0.0
Access	580	7.8	0	0.0
Other	2,570	34.3	150	100.0
Total	7,480	100.0	150	100.0

Notes:
1. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutes and Open University, but excludes employment based ITT (EBITT).
2. EBITT includes trainees through the Registered Teacher Programme.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA 's Performance Profiles

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which providers of initial teacher training have had their number of teacher training places reduced by *(a)* his Department and its predecessors or *(b)* the Training and Development Agency in each of the last five years. [295292]

Mr. Coaker: The Department sets national targets for initial teacher training (ITT) recruitment. ITT place numbers for 2005/06 to 2009/10 are given in the table and have been published as part of Statistical First Release 26/2008: "School Workforce in England" at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

Number of ITT places: Years: 2005/06 to 2009/10, Coverage: England

	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Primary	15,800	15,300	14,800	17,460	18,050
Secondary	18,500	17,500	16,500	19,385	18,120
Primary and secondary	34,300	32,800	31,300	36,845	36,170

Note:
Number of places prior to 2008/09 include School Centred ITT but excludes Employment Based ITT (EBITT). Targets for 2008/09 onwards include EBITT, but exclude Teach First.

Source:
DCSF

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) allocates ITT places to individual providers based on the national target. The table shows the number of accredited ITT providers that were allocated fewer places compared with the previous academic year.

ITT providers: Decrease in allocated places: Years: 2005/06 to 2009/10, Coverage: England

	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Accredited ITT providers allocated fewer places when compared with the previous year:					
Number	66	127	157	142	103
Percentage of all accredited ITT providers	28.1	54.0	67.4	61.7	45.0

Source:
TDA's Trainee Numbers Census

A table showing the number of ITT places allocated to each accredited ITT provider for each of the last six years has been placed in the Library.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many providers of initial teacher training have requested an increase in the number of teacher training places in each of the last five years. [295293]

Mr. Coaker: The table shows the number of accredited initial teacher training (ITT) providers who requested a net year-on-year increase in ITT places across all subjects in a particular phase during each of the last two bidding rounds covering the academic years 2006/07 to 2010/11.

Number of ITT providers that requested an increase in their place allocation across all subjects by phase, 2006/07 to 2010/11, England

	Number of ITT providers				
	Bidding round for				
	2006/07	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Mainstream					
Primary	43	23	73	28	22
Secondary	73	27	67	55	41
Employment Based	58	—	62	28	19

Notes:
1. Figures presented in the table do not reflect separate bids for individual subjects.
2. Although providers may have bid for additional places, it does not mean that their request was granted.
3. The numbers for mainstream primary and secondary providers are not mutually exclusive so should not be aggregated.
4. For the employment based bidding exercise, a providers request for an increase for 2007/08 would, if granted, be counted in the inter-bidding round.

The number of providers who were allocated additional places is given in the table.

Number of ITT providers allocated additional places, 2006/07 to 2010/11, England

	Mainstream	*Employment based*
2006/07	51	40
2007/08	59	47
2008/09	29	46
2009/10	92	49
2010/11	70	28

Notes:
1. The year relates to the allocation for that academic year, not when the change was made.
2. Figures for 2009/10 and 2010/11 include providers who received extra primary places as a result of the additional bidding exercise held in summer 2008.

Travelling People: Computers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many laptops have been issued to Travellers under the E-LAMP scheme since its inception; and at what cost to the public purse. [294966]

Mr. Coaker: Since the inception of the E-Learning and Mobility Project in 2003 856 laptops have been loaned to mobile Gypsy and Traveller children at a cost of £481,600. The laptops are owned by the participating local authority's Traveller Education Support Service. The service will recover and reallocate the laptops when pupils leave the area or end their statutory education.

Young People: Voluntary Work

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to support voluntary sector youth projects in promoting constructive activities for young people in the Milton Keynes Council area. [295755]

Mr. Coaker: The allocation through the DCSF Youth Sector Development Fund to MaD, Make a Difference, based in Milton Keynes, is £191,000 in FY 2009-10 and £179,000 in FY 2010-11.

The 'Make a Difference' project is providing a range of sports, arts and other activities including a Saturday night dry nightclub for young people aged 13 to 19 years. The project is targeting the most disadvantaged areas of the city. Services are focusing specifically on providing activities on Friday and Saturday nights, and the project aims to reach 1,000 young people.

Milton Keynes' share of the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) budget was £251,000 in 2008-09 with an increase to £269,000 in 2009-10 and £560,000 in 2010-11.

This funding is provided to local authorities (LA) for all the year round provision of developmental and diversionary activities—targeted at those young people most at risk of poor outcomes. This is part of the Area Based Grant—giving the LA the flexibility to determine locally how best to spend the investment and the chance to use it to enhance a multi-agency response to the complex needs of at risk young people. Voluntary sector providers will play a key role as partners and providers, but is for the LA—through its children's trust arrangements to decide which projects should be funded.

Milton Keynes receives a total of £113,000 Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) and £131,000 Youth Capital Fund (YCF) per annum.

Voluntary sector organisations are key partners in delivering YOF/YCF in local areas, both as an advisory role to young decision makers and in extending the reach of the funds within communities. Their continued and enhanced involvement is considered key to engaging those young people who do not normally participate. In Milton Keynes 79 per cent. of the successful grants in 2008-09 were awarded to young people involved in voluntary sector youth projects.

Youth Inclusion Programmes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each local authority *(a)* has spent on youth inclusion programmes in each year since their inception and *(b)* plans to spend on such programmes in each of the next five years; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the programmes. [294093]

Mr. Coaker: A local authority breakdown of this funding can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The total expenditure on YIP by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) between 2000 and 2006 is as follows. These figures include grants made to the voluntary sector.

	£
2000-01	3,644,381.00
2001-02	4,761,939.00
2002-03	5,047,370.00
2003-04	5,246,411.00
2004-05	5,769,289.00
2005-06	5,510,000.00

The overall expenditure, including YJB funding, on YIPs, between 2000 and 2006 is as follows. These figures demonstrate how the YJB grant draws in partnership funding from other sources, such as the local authority and other local and national funding streams including through the third sector.

	£
2000-01	8,194,262.00
2001-02	10,686,660.00
2002-03	11,729,657.00
2003-04	12,299,890.00
2004-05	13,533,310.00
2005-06	12,396,740.00

From 2006, funding allocations for YIPs have been accounted for as part of the YJB's overall prevention grant to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs). This includes funding for other prevention programmes.

An independent national evaluation in 2003/06 of the YIP programme found that:

of the four targets for the programme, YIPs exceeded one, narrowly missed one, and fell short on two; however,

arrest rates for the engaged target group considered to be most at risk of crime in each YIP went down by 66.5 per cent.,

of those who had not offended previously but who were at high risk, 74 per cent. did not go on to be arrested after engaging with a YIP.

A report of the evaluation is available on the Youth Justice Board's website at:

http://www.yjb.gov.uk/Publications/Resources/Downloads/Evaluation%20of%20the%20Youth%20Inclusion%20Programme%20-%20Phase%202%20(Summary).pdf

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 2 November 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Antiques

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of antiques seized by his Department in the last 12 months. [297251]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no power to seize antiques. Therefore no such seizure has taken place in the last 12 months.

Arts Council of England: West Midlands

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent per capita on *(a)* capital projects and *(b)* revenue funding in (i) Wolverhampton, (ii) Sandwell, (iii) Dudley, (iv) Walsall, (v) Birmingham, (vi) Solihull and (vii) Coventry in (A) 2001-02, (B) 2002-03, (C) 2003-04, (D) 2004-05, (E) 2005-06, (F) 2006-07, (G) 2007-08 and (H) 2008-09. [294701]

Mr. Simon: Arts Council England have supplied the figures in the following table. The figures represent their total funding, awarded in £000, either on a revenue or capital basis to organisations or individuals based (by postcode) in Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

£000

LA/capital/revenue	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Birmingham								
Lottery Capital	2,115	—	9,920	—	—	—	—	—
Lottery Revenue	8,070	4,109	2,183	3,187	2,636	6,891	3,372	2,170
Grant in Aid Revenue	10,949	11,860	12,986	14,445	16,698	16,513	17,550	18,021
Birmingham total	21,134	15,969	25,089	17,632	19,334	23,404	20,922	20,191
Coventry								
Lottery Capital	4,023	—	30	—	—	—	—	—
Lottery Revenue	455	1,088	190	466	770	952	320	500
Grant in Aid Revenue	923	990	1,415	1,500	1,632	1,696	1,723	1,823
Coventry total	5,401	2,078	1,635	1,966	2,402	2,649	2,043	2,323
Dudley								
Lottery Revenue	213	—	101	62	88	571	106	139
Grant in Aid Revenue	10	20	20	25	25	26	26	50
Dudley total	223	20	121	87	113	597	132	189
Sandwell								
Lottery Capital	28,804	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lottery Revenue	131	36	139	166	77	103	86	65
Grant in Aid Revenue	146	214	420	794	1,132	854	1,254	816
Sandwell total	29,081	250	560	960	1,209	957	1,340	882
Solihull								
Lottery Revenue	180	61	114	85	92	11	155	22
Solihull total	180	61	114	85	92	11	155	22
Walsall								
Lottery Revenue	235	106	179	147	192	172	168	123
Grant in Aid Revenue	517	535	551	862	804	826	849	897
Walsall total	752	641	730	1,010	996	998	1,016	1,020
Wolverhampton								
Lottery Revenue	221	196	243	42	229	230	330	289
Grant in Aid Revenue	27	128	181	315	323	362	341	338
Wolverhampton total	248	324	424	357	552	592	671	627

Big Lottery Fund: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the Big Lottery Fund website in each year since its establishment. [297114]

Mr. Simon: The running and maintenance of the Big Lottery Fund's website is the responsibility of the Big Lottery Fund, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked the Big Lottery Fund's chief executive to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for South West Surrey and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on his Department's website in each year since it was established. [296975]

Mr. Simon: We are unable to supply figures prior to 2005.

The departmental website is managed in house from existing resources. Following are additional costs of development, hosting, licences and editorial. These costs cover the main site and a number of in-house mini-sites.

	£
2005-06	68,097.54
2006-07	59,147.16
2007-08	8,341
2008-09	[1]—

[1] Figures are not currently available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the last 12 months. [297243]

Mr. Simon: My Department does not have a Flickr channel.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people his Department employs to maintain its Department's social media and social networking accounts; and at what cost in the latest year for which figures are available. [297245]

Mr. Simon: My Department does not employ any dedicated resources to maintain its social media and social networking sites.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [297246]

Mr. Simon: My Department has not incurred any costs in maintaining its Twitter feed.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [297248]

Mr. Simon: My Department has not incurred any costs in maintaining its YouTube channel.

Licensing Laws: Languages

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W, on licensing laws: language, in how many languages other than English and Welsh the accredited licence course is offered. [297288]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The accredited licence course providers are free to make a commercial decision to allow the examination to be taken in other languages if there is a demand for such a service. The Department does not record the number of languages other than English and Welsh that have been in demand.

Ofcom: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the Ofcom website in each year since it was established. [297013]

Mr. Simon: The running and maintenance of Ofcom's website is the responsibility of Ofcom, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Ofcom's chief executive to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for South-West Surrey and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Swimming: Concessions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications for funding from pot 4 of the Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme were received in the first funding round; and in respect of which swimming pools these applications were received. [297113]

Mr. Bradshaw: Sport England advises that there were 133 applications for funding from pot 4 of the 2009-10 Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme in the first funding round. Of the 133 applications, 86 were for public swimming pools. These 86 applications correspond to the following projects:

Organisation	*Project name*
Babergh District Council	Improvements to Hadleigh Swimming Pool
Blaby District Council	Enderby Leisure Centre—Invest To Achieve
Bolton District Council	Swimming Pool Modernisation—Bolton Town Centre Pool
Bolton District Council	Swimming Pool Modernisation—Horwich Leisure Centre
Bolton District Council	Swimming Pool Modernisation—Farnworth Leisure Centre

Organisation	*Project name*
Burnley Council	Padiham Leisure Centre
Bury Council	Modern pools for Modern People—Castle Leisure Centre
Bury Council	Modern pools for Modern People—Radcliffe Pool and Fitness Centre
Calderdale Borough Council	New build of Sowerby Bridge Pool
Calderdale Borough Council	New build of Brighouse pool
Cannock Chase	New Swimming Pool
Chesterfield Borough Council	Queens Park Sports Centre
Chichester DC	Westgate Leisure Centre Enhancement
Chiltern DC	Chiltern DC—Capital Swimming Project at 3 sites
Chorley Council	Swim Chorley Capital Improvements—All Seasons Leisure Centre
Chorley Council	Swim Chorley Capital Improvements—Brinscall Pool
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	New Bradford City Centre Pool
City of London	Golden Lane Leisure Centre Refurbishment and Improvement
Colchester Borough Council	Fitness and Teaching Pool Refurbishment in Colchester
Aston Sports Centre	Aston Community Swimming Pool
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Hoyland Leisure Centre
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Dearneside Leisure Centre
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Royston Leisure Centre
Birmingham City Council	Modernising Swimming in Birmingham—3 parts (Wyndley Leisure Centre and 4 temp pools on school sites)
Bolton District Council	Swimming Pool Modernisation—Westhoughton Leisure Centre
Bolton District Council	Swimming Pool Modernisation—Sharples Community Leisure Centre
Bolton District Council	Swimming Pool Modernisation —Turton Community Leisure Centre
Bolton District Council	Swimming Pool Modernisation—Ladybridge Community Leisure Centre
Bolton District Council	Swimming Pool Modernisation—Jubilee Pool
Castle Point Borough Council	Runnymede Swimming Pool
Cedar Park School	Cedar Park School Swimming Pool Enclosure
Charnwood Borough Council	South Charnwood Pool (Wreake Valley Community College)
Coventry City Council	President Kennedy School
Derbyshire County Council	Brookfield Specialist Sports College Swimming Pool Project
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	A Mega Splash at Armthorpe Sports Centre
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	A Mega Splash at Th[illegible]e Sports Centre
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	Swimming Transformation
Flora McDonald Junior School	Enclosing outside swimming pool
Harrow Council	Splashing Out (3 sites)
Kennet District Council	Pewsey Changing refurbishment
Kirklees Metropolitan Council	Batley Swimming Initiative
Leicester City Council	Northfield House Primary School
Luton Borough Council	Modernising Swimming Facilities
Milton Keynes UA	Woughton Leisure Centre Modernisation
Milton Keynes UA	Stantonbury Campus Pool Modernisation Project
New Scotland Hill Primary School	Refurbishment of swimming pool
North Dorset DC	Blandford LC—Free Swimming Capital Development
North Lincs Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme	Riddings Pool
Nottingham City Council	Replace Noel St pool with new pool adj to Djanogly Academy
NW Leicestershire District Council	Ibstock Community College
NW Leicestershire District Council	King Edward VII community College
Purbeck District Council	Purbeck Sports Centre—Pool Plant Renewal
Colchester Borough Council	Fitness Pool Changing Room Facility Upgrade
Colchester Borough Council	Fitness Pool Conversion
Colchester Borough Council	Fitness Pool General Swimming Facility Upgrade
Colchester Borough Council	Fitness Pool Training and Teaching Room Extension
Corby Borough Council	Corby East Midlands International Pool
Corby Borough Council	Corby East Midlands International Pool
Council of the Isles of Scilly	Normandy pool—All weather cover for outdoor swimming pool
Daventry District Council	Modernisation of Daventry Leisure Centre
Derbyshire Dales District Council	Ashbourne Swimming Pool
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	A Mega Splash at Dearne Valley Leisure Centre
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	A Mega Splash at the Dome
Erewash Borough Council	West Park Leisure Centre Changing Rooms
Fenland District Council	Fenland's Swimming Facility modernisation programme
Fenland District Council	Manor Leisure Centre Swimming Pool Improvements Project
Fenland District Council	Hudson Leisure Centre Wisbech Swimming Pool Improvements
Gateshead Council	Leisure Centre Blaydon
Halton Borough Council	Kingsway Village Change
Harborough District Council	Harborough Leisure Centre—changing room modernisation
Hartlepool Borough Council	Mill House Leisure Centre
High Peak Borough Council	Buxton Spa Pool, Glossop Pool (2 applications)
Leeds City Council	Water treatment
Leeds City Council	Pool Covers
Leeds City Council	Lighting
Leeds City Council	Access
Leeds City Council	Scott Hall Aquatics Modernisation
Leeds City Council	Kirkstall Aquatics Modernisation
Leicester City Council	Various City Leisure Centres—7 sites
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Abbey, Goresbrook and Dagenham)	No Barriers—Inviting, Safe, Secure
London Borough of Brent	Changing Room Access Improvement—Willesden
London Borough of Brent	Refurbishment of wetside changing rooms—Vale Farm
London Borough of Enfield	Improvement to Southgate Leisure Centre
London Borough of Enfield	Improving Enfield's Swimming
London Borough of Lambeth	Brixton Recreation Centre Swimming Pool modernisation
London Borough of Redbridge	Ilford Pool Development
London Borough of Waltham Forest	Swim Safe for All
London Borough of Waltham Forest	Swimming Pool Improvements
Milton Keynes	Swimming pools modernisation programme
Milton Keynes UA	Middleton Pool modernisation
North East Derbyshire District Council	Refurbishment of Sharley Park Leisure Centre

Organisation	*Project name*
North Lincs Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme	Ancholme Leisure Centre
North Tyneside Council	Tynemouth Pool Changing Village
Northampton Borough Council	Danes Camp Teaching Pool
NW Leicestershire District Council	Hermitage Leisure Centre
Redcar and Cleveland BC	4 sites—Saltburn LC, Loftus LC, Eston Sports Academy, Guisborough
Rugby Borough Council	Free Swimming Initiative—Ken Marriot Leisure Centre
Salford City Council	Broughton Pool—Modernisation
Sandwell MBC	Sandwell CMP—Haden Hill Leisure B64 7HA
Shropshire Council	The Quarry
Shropshire Council	Oswald Park
South Holland District Council	Castle Pool Modernisation Project
Southwark Council	Camberwell Baths (FSMCF)
St. Albans District Council	Redevelopment of Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre
St. Albans District Council	Cotlandswick Leisure Facility London Colney
St. Helens MBC (St. Helens CSN)	Modernisation of Swimming Pool Changing Rooms
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Brough Park Leisure Centre
Stevenage Borough Council	Swimming Centre Changing Village Improvement Works
Stockton on Tees BC (2 sites)	Increasing Participation in Swimming
Tendring District Council	Dovercourt Swimming Pool Changing Room
Tendring District Council	Frinton and Walton Swimming Pool Changing Room Refurbishment
Tendring District Council	Swimming Pool Changing Room Refurbishment
Thanet DC	Ramsgate Sports Centre—New Pool
Walsall Council—Bloxwich Leisure Centre	FSCMP—Walsall Council
Waverley Borough Council	Refurbishment of Farnham Sports Centre wet-side
Westminster City Council	Westminster Capital Modernisation Programme
Wigan Council	Modernisation of Tyldesley Pool
Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust	Modernisation of Hindley Pool
Calderdale Borough Council	New build of Sowerby Bridge / Brighouse Pools

There were also 47 education applications for funding from pot 4 of the 2009-10 Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme in the first funding round. These correspond to the following projects:

Organisation	*Project name*
Shropshire Council	Church Stretton
Shropshire Council	William Brookes School
South Staffordshire DC	Codsall Swimming Pool Refurbishment
South Tyneside MBC	Brinkburn Community School
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	Hemsworth High School
Wandsworth Council	Southfields Sports College Swimming Pool Extension
Warriner School	Warriner Pool enclosure project
Warrington Borough Council	Orford Park
Waveney District Council	Waterlane Leisure Centre Redevelopment
West Dorset DC	New swimming facilities at Thomas Hardye Leisure Centre
West Wiltshire District Council	Warminster Changing refurbishment
Wigan Council	Modernisation of pool at Ashton Leisure Centre
Woking BC	Modernising outdoor swimming pools—St. Johns Primary Sch. Knapp Hill, Goldsworth
Oxford City Council	Inclusive pool development—City Academy

Swimming: West Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people resident in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire have participated in the scheme for free swimming for people over 60 years. [296483]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table shows the total number of free swims that have taken place under the free swimming scheme by people aged 60 and over in Leeds and Yorkshire since the programme launched in April. This is not a measure of the total number of individual participants taking part in free swimming, as the Department does not hold these figures.

The Department holds figures by local authority; county and region. Accordingly, figures for West Yorkshire are included within those for Yorkshire as a whole.

	Leeds	*Yorkshire*
April	9,219	43,149
May	9,593	47,854
June	11,291	54,132
July	12,277	64,759
August	11,133	59,589
September	10,965	58,317
Total (year to date)	64,478	327,800

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Correspondence

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister if he will send a substantive response to the letter dated 24 August 2009 sent to him by Dr. Jim Swire requesting a full public inquiry into the Lockerbie bombing; and if he will make a statement. [296065]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

Tony Blair

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on proposals to nominate Tony Blair to the position of President of the European Council; what the outcome of such discussions has been; and if he will make a statement; [296567]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* hon. and right hon. Members and *(b)* members of the House of Lords of each party on proposals to nominate Tony Blair to the position of President of the European Council; and if he will make a statement. [296568]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 27 October. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21103

A copy of the transcript has been placed in the Library of the House.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Criminal Proceedings

Philip Davies: To ask the Solicitor-General what period of time on average elapsed between the passing of a case file on an arrested individual to the Crown Prosecution Service and the notification to a police force on whether charges would be brought in each category of crime in the latest period for which figures are available. [296336]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution service (CPS) case management system (CMS) reports the average number of calendar days that has elapsed since the first decision was sought from the police, to the date in which the last decision made was to charge. Data reported on CMS show that for the 12-month period from November 2008 to October 2009, the average number of calendar days taken to reach this decision was 8.6 days. This includes cases where a decision to charge was made: on the same day as the request from the police, either by CPS Direct, an out of hours telephone service; by way of face to face advice; or local telephone advice. It also includes those cases where the police were required to submit further evidence prior to a decision to charge being made; and those more complex cases where detailed written advice was provided to the police.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of this information by category of offence.

Prosecutions: Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent representations she has received from small businesses on the rate of prosecutions brought by the Crown Prosecution Service for shoplifting offences. [276122]

The Solicitor-General: As far as I know neither the Attorney-General's Office nor the Crown Prosecution Service has received representations from small businesses. The Government take very seriously the need for the whole criminal justice system to be as effective as possible in tackling crime against shopkeepers and small businesses.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General when she plans to respond to Question (1) 276122, on Crown Prosecution Service rates of prosecution, tabled on 13 May 2009; [292029]

(2) 292029, on the response to a parliamentary question, tabled on 9 October 2009; [297491]

(3) 276122, on rates of prosecution in the Crown Prosecution Service, tabled on 13 May 2009. [297492]

The Solicitor-General: The information is set out in the answer to question 276122 answered today.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294690]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on overnight accommodation. Lists of the overseas visits made by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 in 2006-07 and of the overseas visits made by all Ministers costing in excess of £500 in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are published at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

All travel is undertaken by the most efficient and costs effective way, in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Children: Prosecutions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children under the age of 17 were subject to legal proceedings following their role in criminal activity in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2008. [297125]

Paul Goggins: The number of persons under the age of 17 prosecuted at court for an offence in 2003 was 1,068. In 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available), 923 persons were prosecuted.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296083]

Mr. Woodward: Royal Mail provides external mail services to my Department. This is not a tendered service and therefore there is no formal expiry date.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294984]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) operates two helplines:

1. Mentally disordered offenders victim information scheme; and

2. AccessNI—a criminal records disclosure and vetting service for statutory, community and voluntary bodies.

The NIO does not receive any payment from the operation of these helplines.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295720]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office aims to provide a high-quality service, which reflects best practice, through the current operating procedures used for its two helplines (Access NI and the mentally disordered offenders victim information scheme). While there may be benefits to be gained from securing accreditation to The Helplines Association's quality standard I do not consider that, at current user levels, the resource implications involved in seeking accreditation would be justified on value-for-money grounds.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294699]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent £2,728.56 on overnight accommodation for Ministers and £11,145.37 for officials while overseas in 2008-09.

Due to the way this expenditure is recorded on the NIO financial system, figures for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 would be available only at disproportionate cost.

The following link to the Cabinet Office website provides costs for Ministers' travel overseas, but only provides a total cost of the visit and does not separate the various areas of expenditure:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Devolution

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by what date he expects devolution of powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly to have been completed. [296836]

Paul Goggins: The Government believe that the time is right for the Northern Ireland Assembly to complete the process of devolution by requesting the transfer of policing and justice powers. However, the actual timing of devolution remains for the Assembly itself to decide upon, as set out in section 4 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Good progress continues to be made towards the completion of devolution and I believe that the financial package set out by the Prime Minister should enable the parties to move forward with the process.

Northern Ireland Policing Board: Finance

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what proportion of the administration budget of the Northern Ireland Policing Board was spent on the operation of district policing partnerships in the latest period for which figures are available; [297416]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of district policing partnerships in Northern Ireland; [297417]

(3) who the members of each district policing partnership in Northern Ireland are; and what the declared political affiliation of each is; [297447]

(4) how many meetings of each district policing partnership in Northern Ireland have taken place in each of the last two years. [297448]

Paul Goggins: These are operational matters for the Northern Ireland Policing Board, which is independent of Government. The hon. Gentleman may wish to write to the Chief Executive of the Policing Board.

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff there are in the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland; and how much it spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* public relations in the latest period for which figures are available. [297412]

Paul Goggins: These are operational matters relating to the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. I have asked the Chief Executive to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Helicopters

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many helicopters are available for use by the Police Service of Northern Ireland; [297163]

(2) what provision has been made for the Police Service of Northern Ireland to deploy airborne thermal imaging cameras to detect cannabis factories in Northern Ireland. [297165]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Manpower

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff of each rank work in the Police Service of Northern Ireland Historical Enquiries Team. [297161]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Special Purchase Evacuated Dwellings Scheme

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the performance of the Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings Scheme against its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [297188]

Paul Goggins: The Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings Scheme is a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive. The scheme is operated by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive which is funded by the Department for Social Development.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Press Gallery

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how long each member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery has been a member of it. [296951]

Nick Harvey: The House authorities do not hold information on how long individuals have been a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Females: Developing Countries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much her Department has spent on the promotion of women's rights in developing countries in each of the last 12 months. [290479]

Maria Eagle: No expenditure has been spent in each of the last 12 months by the Government Equalities Office in promoting the UK's policies for women's rights in developing countries. This area of responsibility lies with the Department for International Development—12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 84W.

The UK Government are strongly committed to promoting and protecting women's rights, as evidenced by the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1986.

In addition, the UK actively participates in the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meetings in New York. At its 50th session in 2006 actions were agreed that member states and civil society actors should undertake in order to enhance the participation of women in development.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296085]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are no companies under contract to the Department for International Development to provide mail services.

Pakistan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1379W, on Pakistan: internally displaced persons, to which humanitarian agencies and for which projects his Department has allocated funds. [296839]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following table shows the Department for International Development's allocation of funding to humanitarian agencies and projects in support of internally displaced people in Pakistan.

Funded agency	*Total funding (£)*
UN/NGOs Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan (PHRP)	12,500,000
ICRC	9,000,000
Monitoring and ex-post evaluation	250,000
Sarhad Rural Support Programme (Local NGO)	250,000
Total	22,000,000

Breakdown of contribution to UN/NGOs for Pakistan humanitarian response

Plan	*Total funding (£)*
UN System	7,718,683
NGOs funded	—
Church World Services - for the supply of non food items	743,414
ACTED - for water and sanitation services and early recovery activities	733,085
Islamic Relief - for water and sanitation services	147,576
Muslim Aid - for water and sanitation services	113,870
Oxfam - for water and sanitation services	550,560
Mercy Corps - for water and sanitation services	305,867
Merlin - for emergency health services	373,157
International Medical Core - for healthcare services	495,504
Save the Children - for emergency healthcare services and livelihood support	538,325
Handicap International - for assistance to vulnerable persons	244,693
Relief International-for transitional sustainable solutions	305,867
Concern Worldwide - for skill development initiatives	229,400
NGO Sub-total	4,781,317
Total	12,500,000

The UK has committed an additional £10 million to help people displaced by the fighting in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. This commitment will be distributed through the UN to aid agencies working in NWFP. This assistance will support early recovery to provide food, water emergency shelter and other critical humanitarian help to those most in need.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [297322]

Mr. Michael Foster: The conflict that ended in January made worse an already extremely serious humanitarian situation. Today, more than nine months on, 75 per cent. of Gazans still rely on some form of food aid and over 60 per cent. do not have daily access to water. The onset of winter will further affect those whose homes remain damaged or destroyed since the end of the conflict.

Since the start of the conflict in December 2008, the UK has pledged almost £47 million for immediate humanitarian assistance, early recovery and reconstruction. Whilst some basic humanitarian assistance has been entering Gaza, access constraints have severely hampered early recovery and reconstruction efforts. The UK will continue to press the Israeli Government for the provision of full, immediate and unhindered access for aid, aid workers and reconstruction materials, in line with fundamental humanitarian principles.

St. Helena: Airports

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 16-17WS, on St. Helena, on what date he expects to respond to the consultation on options for access to the island; and if he will make a statement. [297241]

Mr. Michael Foster: The public consultation document, available on the Department for International Development's website, lays out the timings of the consultation process.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to publish the responses to the consultation on access to St. Helena. [296903]

Mr. Michael Foster: The consultation report is available on the Department for International Development's website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with commercial organisations on the provision of an airport on St. Helena. [296904]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Secretary of State has not had recent discussions with commercial organisations on the provision of an airport for St. Helena.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on access to St. Helena. [296905]

Mr. Michael Foster: The consultation report, available on the Department for International Development's website, contains an annex listing all recent representations made to the Secretary of State regarding access to St. Helena.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Crimes of Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many bus drivers have been assaulted by passengers in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [296346]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Crossrail Line

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent to date on the Crossrail project. [295160]

Mr. Khan: In the period prior to the granting of Royal Assent for the Crossrail Act in July 2008, Crossrail Ltd. (CRL), formerly Cross London Rail Links (CLRL), and the Department for Transport (DFT) spent £166 million in preparation for Crossrail. This figure includes the costs incurred by CRL and DFT in support of the Crossrail Act 2008 and related agreements and DFT's financial, legal and technical consultancy fees in support of the parliamentary process and agreements.

From the establishment of CLRL in 2001 up to the granting of Royal Assent in July 2008, the combined expenditure by CLRL and CRL in relation to the costs of Crossrail works, including expenditure on design and land acquisition, was £227 million.

For the period after Royal Assent, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 998-99W.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether there is a business plan for the flexible benefits project in his central Department. [297135]

Chris Mole: The strategy for introducing the flexible benefits programme is based on existing HMRC approved schemes in support of government policy and outcomes on, for example, wellbeing and the environment. A project plan is in place governing the delivery of the programme.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the last equal pay review for each of his Department's bargaining units was conducted. [297136]

Chris Mole: The last equal pay review conducted for each of the Department for Transport's bargaining units is shown in the following table.

Bargaining unit	*Last equal pay review*
Department for Transport (Centre)	September 2006
Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency	July 2006

Bargaining unit	*Last equal pay review*
Highways Agency	July 2005
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	July 2008
Government Car and Despatch Agency	April 2007
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	October 2009
Vehicle Certification Agency	July 2009
Driver Standards Agency	May 2009

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296052]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is committed to participating fully in the work of the Government's Operational Efficiency Programme and we have recently taken part in the government-wide benchmarking exercise of several corporate functions.

To complement this, we have set in hand further work to review our corporate functions and to lead our transformation programme. In line with the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme, I have assumed responsibility as the Minister responsible for overseeing delivery of value for money in the Department.

The Department offers a wide range of learning and development opportunities to support the delivery of value for money savings, and this ensures that appropriate training is available to all who require it.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295719]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 221W.

Motorcycles: Accidents

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving motorcycles resulted in *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious personal injuries in each local authority area in each year since 1979. [296853]

Paul Clark: Two tables showing the number of road traffic accidents involving motorcycles that resulted in *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious personal injuries in each local authority area in each year since 1979 have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. To allow for boundary changes, table 1 shows accidents in district authorities from 1979 to 1995 and table 2 shows accidents in highway authorities from 1994 to 2008.

Motorcycles: Safety

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what percentage of his Department's road safety budget is allocated to motorcycle safety in 2009-10; [296777]

(2) what his Department's budget is for *(a)* bicycle safety, *(b)* pedestrian safety and *(c)* motorcycle safety in 2009-10; [296778]

(3) with reference to page 5 of his Department's publication, The Government's Motorcycling Strategy, what percentage of his Department's budget is allocated to measures to mainstream motorcycling in 2009-10. [296779]

Paul Clark: Most spending on road safety is undertaken by local authorities from their own resources, including general Government grant and locally raised revenues. The total amount spent on road safety, including cycle, pedestrian and motorcycle safety, is not recorded. In 2009-10 the Department for Transport's spending on cycle, pedestrian and motorcycle safety is as follows:

Think campaign—£1,685,000 on all Child Safety, including the development of teaching materials for educational settings, £1,840,000 for teenage pedestrian road safety and £3,385,000 on motorcycle safety.

Road Safety Partnership Grant—£1,043,000 on motorcycle safety. Other programme budget for road safety projects that will impact on all road users, including pedestrians, cycles and motorcycles totals £6,775,000.

Research—£238,000 on our cycle safety project, £230,000 on motorcycle safety projects and £126,500 on motorcycle engineering projects. £149,985 on research into the feasibility of allowing motorcyclists to use Advanced Stop Lines at signal junctions, currently reserved for pedal cyclists.

Cycle Training—£9.5 million in direct grants to local authorities and schools to deliver over 200,000 additional National Standard cycle training places for children with a further £500,000 for extra trainers to deliver the increased training. The programme is primarily aimed at encouraging more children to cycle specifically on school journeys, but should help them to do so more safely.

The safety of all road users, including cyclists, pedestrians and motorcyclists, also benefits from our activities and spending on broader road safety measures, including changes to the road environment and to improve driver behaviour.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with motor manufacturers on the requirement for daytime running lights. [296907]

Paul Clark: Department for Transport officials have been involved in ongoing discussions with motor manufacturers relating to the development and implementation of European requirements on the fitment of daytime running lamps to new vehicles.

Motorways: Closures

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many times a motorway has been closed because of someone on or near it threatening to commit suicide in the last 12 months. [296908]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency has recorded 26 motorway closures owing to suicides or persons threatening to commit suicide in the year to September 2009.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions in the last 12 months the initial decision to fully close a motorway by a road policing officer has been reviewed by *(a)* a supervisor, *(b)* the Highways Agency and *(c)* the Highway Authority; and in how many such cases the decision has been overturned. [296909]

Chris Mole: A decision to close a motorway is made by the police where the nature and/or severity of the incident demands it.

Highways Agency Traffic Officers and their supervisors do not have the authority to overturn an instruction given by a police constable.

Discussion may take place between the Traffic Officer Service and the police following an incident to identify the best way forward in those circumstances, but a police officer's decision is final.

Therefore the Highways Agency, as Highway Authority, has not reviewed any initial decisions by a roads policing officer to fully close a motorway.

Network Rail: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of the proposed efficiencies agreed between Network Rail and the Office of Rail Regulation for the period 2009-14 are expected to arise from reductions in staffing. [296977]

Chris Mole: It is for Network Rail to decide how it achieves the efficiency improvements which the Office of Rail Regulation factored into its determination of the company's access charges for the period 2009-14. The Office of Rail Regulation will provide assurance that Network Rail's approach to achieving these efficiencies will also enable the company to continue to improve safety and performance and to increase capacity.

Office of Rail Regulation: Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by the Office of Rail Regulation. [289853]

Chris Mole: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) leases a portion of the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) central London estate to house its headquarters functions. The CAA manages the accommodation and has stated its intent to adhere to the arrangements being made for the private sector under the Government's carbon reduction commitment rather than the display energy certificate (DEC) requirement for public buildings.

The ORR rents desk space for 14 regional offices from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under a memorandum of terms of occupation. DECs and advisory reports for those buildings which fall under the DEC requirement will be placed electronically in the Libraries of the House. A DEC is to be obtained in 2009 for two of the buildings and will be placed in the Libraries of the House when available. Three of the buildings are below 1,000 square metres so are outside the scope of the DEC requirement.

The ORR directly leases an office in Glasgow. However, due to its small size it is also outside the scope of the DEC requirement.

Parking Offences: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on levying *(a)* credit card fees and *(b)* other surcharges on parking fines. [294155]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport's operational guidance to local authorities in England on parking policy and enforcement was published in March 2008.

Railway Stations: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the capacity of the platforms at Euston station to receive the longer Pendolino trains planned for 2013; and if he will make a statement. [296744]

Chris Mole: Network Rail as custodian of the railway infrastructure has confirmed that Euston station can accommodate the longer Pendolino trains currently under construction.

Railways: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* not yet spent and contractually committed to the proposed Intercity Express Programme train. [296775]

Chris Mole: With regards to the amounts spent on the proposed Intercity Express Programme train, known as the Super Express Train, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1150-1W, to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers).

To date, there are no contractual commitments. The Department for Transport is currently in confidential commercial negotiations with the Preferred Bidder, Agility Trains.

Railways: Greater London

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of *(a)* economic and *(b)* environmental benefits to rail freight operators of electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking line; and if he will make a statement. [296772]

Chris Mole: This scheme was one of a number assessed in Network Rail's Network Route Utilisation Strategy concerning electrification which was published in October 2009. This can be found at:

ht[illegible]www.networkrail.co.uk/browse%20documents/rus%20documents/route%20utilisation%20strategies/network/working%20group%204%20-%20electrification%20strategy/networkrus_electrification.pdf

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many railway passenger carriages have been *(a)* exported, *(b)* scrapped and *(c)* refurbished for future domestic use in each year since 1994. [296776]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested. It may be available from the relevant Rolling Stock Leasing Companies. For passenger rolling stock, these are Angel Trains, HSBC Rail and Porterbrook.

Transdev: Mergers

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the French Government and *(b)* Transport for London on the proposed merger between RATP and the UK operations of the bus operator Transdev; and if he will make a statement. [297185]

Mr. Khan: I have had no discussions with either the French Government or Transport for London on this subject.

Transport: Planning

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which draft national policy statements under the Planning Act 2008 for which his Department is responsible he expects to publish before March 2010. [296502]

Paul Clark: I expect to have published draft national policy statements covering ports and national networks (covering strategic roads, railways and rail freight) by March 2010.

Transport: Working Hours

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on road transport workers of the implementation of regulations on working time. [296208]

Paul Clark: The European Working Time Directive (2002/15/EC) on the organisation of the working time of mobile workers in road transport specifies the provisions for working time, breaks and night work. It is implemented in Great Britain by the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations 2005. A comprehensive review of these Regulations was completed in 2008.

Following the introduction of the Regulations, Labour Force Statistics showed that there had been a small drop in the average number of hours worked by HGV drivers. At this stage, it has not been possible to ascertain whether the Regulations have improved safety for road transport workers.

DEFENCE

Reserve Forces

15. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the reserve forces. [296695]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answers the Secretary of State for Defence gave earlier to the hon. Members for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne) and Norwich, North (Chloe Smith).

Territorial Army

16. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to meet the training requirements of the Territorial Army and the cadet forces; and if he will make a statement. [296696]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As we announced on 28 October, £20 million of new money from the Treasury has been ring-fenced for Territorial Army training.

17. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate the Chief of the General Staff has made of the Territorial Army retention rate from 1 April 2010. [296697]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army were of course aware that the six-month reduction in training they proposed might impact on retention. They believed they could manage this risk. None the less having listened to the strength of feeling on this issue, I decided that training should recommence as soon as possible.

20. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Territorial Army. [296701]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave earlier today to the hon. Members for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne), Norwich, North (Chloe Smith) and Croydon, South (Richard Ottaway).

22. **Jo Swinson**: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on operational manpower levels of proposed reductions to Territorial Army training. [296703]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As we announced on 28 October, £20 million of new money from the Treasury has been ring-fenced for Territorial Army training. We have consistently made clear that TA members deploying on operations will get all the training that the Army considers appropriate and necessary.

24. **Mr. Evennett**: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future deployment of the Territorial Army. [296705]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Operational requirements and force levels, Regular and Reservist, are kept under constant review. All Territorial Army personnel who are mobilised for operations will be appropriately trained before they deploy.

Afghanistan

18. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the internal and external threats to the military security of Afghanistan. [296699]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave earlier to the hon. Members for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) and Kettering (Mr. Hollobone).

19. **David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the internal and external threats to the military security of Afghanistan. [296700]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave earlier to the hon. Members for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands), Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) and Leominster (Bill Wiggin).

21. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the Royal Air Force to UK military operations in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [296702]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The RAF makes a vital contribution to operations in Afghanistan. Our aircraft perform a number of roles such as: close air support; reconnaissance and surveillance; providing support to land operations; and re-supplying front line troops. In particular, Chinook and Hercules aircraft provide an invaluable aeromedical service with rapid transfer to specialist care facilities in Afghanistan. As part of the airbridge, C17 and Tristar aircraft provide a consistent and reliable service moving large numbers of personnel into sometimes hostile environments under difficult conditions and medically evacuating injured service personnel back to the UK. Many RAF personnel also fulfil a range of roles on the ground, including force protection around Kandahar airfield and Camp Bastion.

Gray Report

23. **Lynda Waltho**: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how he plans to implement the recommendations made in the Gray report on defence acquisition. [296704]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Members for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) and Dunfermline and Fife West (Willie Rennie).

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel have been deployed in Afghanistan in each month since January 2006. [293791]

Bill Rammell: The percentage of Royal Navy personnel deployed in Afghanistan as a proportion of the endorsed troop level by Operation Herrick roulement is provided in the following table:

Herrick roulement	*Date*	*Royal Navy personnel deployed as a percentage of the endorsed UK troop level for Operation Herrick at the time*[1]
Herrick 10	April to October 2009	5
Herrick 9	October 2008 to April 2009	30
Herrick 8	April to October 2008	5
Herrick 7	October 2007 to April 2008	15
Herrick 6	April to October 2007	10
Herrick 5	November 2006 to April 2007	35
Herrick 4	May to November 2006	5

[1] Rounded to the nearest 5 per cent. at the mid-point of each roulement to provide the most consistent representation of personnel in theatre.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre at any one time fluctuates very significantly and on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and visits.

The higher percentage of Royal Navy personnel for Herrick roulements 9 and 5 are accounted for by the deployment of 3 Commando Brigade as Task Force Helmand which increased the proportion of Royal Navy personnel in Afghanistan.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many additional Chinook helicopters he expects to be deployed in Afghanistan in 2010. [296785]

Bill Rammell: We are converting eight Chinook Mk 3 helicopters to a support helicopter role. The first of these aircraft will be delivered for training purposes before the end of this year, with the remaining seven being delivered by the end of 2010. This will increase the size of the pool of Chinooks available for deployment but I will not comment on the specific number of helicopters to be deployed to Afghanistan as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Air Force: Manpower

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Air Commodores and *(b)* Air Marshals were on the active list in the Royal Air Force in each year since 1997. [294010]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of Air Commodores and Air Marshals in the Royal Air Force at 1 April each year since 1997 is provided in the following table. The ranks of Air Vice Marshal and Air Chief Marshal have also been included in the table for clarity.

	Paid rank			
1 April	*Air Chief Marshal*	*Air Marshal*	*Air Vice Marshal*	*Air Commodore*
1997	5	8	34	95
1998	4	7	32	92
1999	4	7	31	92
2000	3	8	32	98
2001	2	8	31	96
2002	3	7	31	90
2003	4	7	29	88
2004	4	4	34	90
2005	4	8	27	92
2006	2	8	27	92
2007	4	6	30	95
2008	[1]3	[1]6	[1]25	[1]94
2009	[1]3	[1]9	[1]24	[1]90

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. The figures are for trained Royal Air Force only and therefore exclude Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves and all other Reserves.
2. Due to the implementation of the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System all Royal Air Force data from 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
3. These figures are published regularly in TSP 9 which is available at: www.dasa.mod.uk.
4. This information is held in the House of Commons Library.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the fleet of aircraft carriers was last refurbished; and what the life expectancy of the fleet is. [296356]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The current fleet of three Invincible Class aircraft carriers all underwent a major refurbishment (refit) at Rosyth between 1999 and 2005. HMS Ark Royal completed in 2001, HMS Invincible completed in 2003 and HMS Illustrious completed in 2005.

On current plans, the Out of Service Dates (OSDs) are: HMS Invincible 2010, HMS Ark Royal in 2014 and HMS Illustrious 2016. Our ship programmes are kept under continuous review to ensure that the In-Service Dates for the Queen Elizabeth (QE) Class carriers remain coherent with the OSDs for the Invincible Class.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent plans are for the procurement and future use of the new aircraft carrier; and if he will make a statement. [296698]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Government rem[illegible]lly committed to the manufacture of two Queen [illegible] Class aircraft carriers. The carriers are a core component of the overall Carrier Strike Programme and a cornerstone of future defence policy.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to funding for the Army Cadet Force on his Department's fulfilment of its commitments under the Government's Youth agenda. [296294]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* The Ministry of Defence's main effort is Afghanistan and in the very difficult financial climate hard decisions have had to be taken. This has resulted in a reduction to the funds available for this year to our Cadet Forces, and specifically to the Army Cadets. This decision has not been taken lightly.

The Department's commitment to the Youth agenda remains undiminished as evidenced by our recent response to the Milburn Report where, despite the challenging financial situation, we have accepted in principle the recommendation to ensure that those state school pupils who wish to get involved in Cadets may do so. We are investigating innovative methods of extending cadet provision to state school pupils which include working closely with the Department for Children Schools and Families.

Financial constraints prevent the Government from meeting this recommendation in full, immediately. However this year, for example, we have delivered an additional six London Challenge Partnerships (Independent School CCFs offering Cadet places to neighbouring state school pupils) and the Air Cadet Organisation plans an annual expansion, targeted at state school pupils, of 700 cadets per year until 2018.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department allocated to the provision of soldier accommodation in *(a)* total and *(b)* the West Midlands in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [296840]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally in the format requested and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to upgrade soldier accommodation. [296841]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The provision of good quality living accommodation for both married and single service personnel continues to be a top departmental priority. Decades of under funding means that the standard of service accommodation has lagged behind the expectations of our people. Some housing stock is old.

Investment over the last seven years has begun to correct this, but there is much more to be done. The Department plans to invest some £3 billion on accommodation improvement programmes over the next decade. Since 2001, over £200 million has been spent upgrading some 14,000 service family accommodation (SFA) properties to the top standard for condition.

More remains to be done, but progress is being made and over 90 per cent. of SFA is now at the two highest standards for condition. Our aim is to ensure that by March 2013 very little, if any, of the occupied SFA estate should be below standard 2 for condition.

In addition, since 2003, some 35,000 new or improved single living accommodation bed-spaces have been delivered as part of a £1.4 billion programme that will see a further 21,000 delivered by 2013.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what maintenance programmes are in place for soldier accommodation. [296842]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are various prime contracts, private finance initiatives (PFI) and other arrangements in place across the Department for the maintenance of accommodation for service personnel. These include the Housing Prime Contract, the Regional Prime Contracts, Project Allenby Connaught and the Colchester Garrison PFI among others. Although these arrangements vary in size and scope, they include programmes of pre-planned maintenance and provision for reactive maintenance to be carried out within agreed response times.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to build new soldier accommodation in the UK. [296843]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In addition to the 35,000 single living accommodation bed-spaces delivered in the UK since 2003, the majority of which are new builds, the Department plams to deliver an additional 20,000 bed-spaces by 2013.

Requirements for new service family accommodation (SFA) are usually satisfied through bulk hirings or purchases on the open market.

However, examples of sites where new SFA may be built or procured, include Salisbury Plain, Innsworth, St. Athan, Litchfield, Stafford and Catterick.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence through which commercial rental agencies his Department facilitates the substitute single living accommodation scheme. [297383]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All Substitute Service Single Living Accommodation is sourced via the Ministry of Defence contractor, HCR Ltd.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average occupancy rate of the Defence Estates' housing stock was in each year since the formation of Defence Estates; and if he will make a statement. [296984]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table, extracted from the United Kingdom Defence Statistics published on 30 September 2009, shows the requested information for Service Family Accommodation properties in the UK.

United Kingdom

	1990	*1997*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Total permanent holdings in the UK (Thousand)	75.0	68.6	53.8	52.8	51.9	51.8	51.1	51.2	49.9
Number of vacant accommodation (Thousand)	11.8	13.2	8.8	8.2	7.9	9.5	10.1	10.5	8.4
Vacant properties as a percentage of all dwellings	16	19	16	16	15	18	20	21	17

The complete table can be found at the following link:

www.dasa.mod.uk

The latest percentage of vacant properties for 2009 is 15.9 per cent.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have sustained *(a)* damage to, *(b)* partial loss and *(c)* total loss of (i) upper and (ii) lower limbs in (A) Afghanistan and (B) Iraq in each of the last 36 months; what proportion of such injuries in each category became infected; and if he will make a statement. [290859][1]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The following table gives the numbers of surviving UK Service personnel whose injuries included those coded as a traumatic or surgical amputation, partial or complete, for either upper or lower limbs between 1 April 2006 and 30 September 2009 as a result of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. This injury code covers injuries ranging from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of an entire limb or limbs. To indicate the number with severe multiple limb injuries, those classified as "significant multiple amputees" have suffered limb amputations above the wrist or ankle on more than one limb; in other words, they have lost at least two hands or feet. Note that there were no significant multiple amputees arising from operations in Iraq in this period.

Period	*Afghanistan partial or complete limb amputees*	*of which significant multiple amputees*	*Iraq partial or complete limb amputees*
April 6 - December 6	7	—	5
January 7 - December 7	14		10
January 8 - December 8	27	6	—
January 9 - September 9	33	13	0

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who joined the armed forces since 1997 were from *(a)* England, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [296392]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the number of officers and other ranks who have joined the regular armed forces by applying through their local Armed

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[1] *[Official Report, 11 November 2009, Vol. 499, c. 7MC.]*

Forces Careers Office (AFCO). Information for Teesside is not available but data are provided for the AFCOs in Middlesbrough and Newcastle. However, these figures do not provide a comprehensive picture because it does not guarantee that all recruits were born or live in that particular area. For example, some recruits may have been at university and so used the most conveniently located AFCO.

	England	*Middlesbrough*	*Newcastle*
Royal Navy			
2003-04	3,139	87	148
2004-05	2,953	79	155
2005-06	3,227	90	162
2006-07	3,230	81	153
2007-08	3,314	68	143
2008-09	3,573	92	165
Army			
1997-98	9,528	391	498
1998-99	10,804	396	430
1999-2000	10,424	344	323
2000-01	9,716	270	244
2001-02	10,013	211	211
2002-03	10,967	374	285
2003-04	9,989	295	237
2004-05	7,637	189	177
2005-06	8,621	212	136
2006-07	9,624	191	216
2007-08	9,564	159	152
2008-09	10,358	139	190
Royal Air Force (RAF)			
2003-04	4,406	165	131
2004-05	2,459	71	65
2005-06	1,340	51	45
2006-07	1,611	52	42
2007-08	2,598	77	102
2008-09	3,687	134	167

As shown in the table, no information is available for earlier years for Royal Navy and RAF as these data are not held in the requested format.

Army: Cadets

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has made to mark the 150th anniversary of the Cadet Force in 2010. [296234]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD is overseeing and supporting a range of national and regional activities commemorating the 150th anniversary of the MOD Sponsored Cadet Forces. Led by the Head of Reserve Forces and Cadets, a project steering group is developing plans which aim to celebrate and promote the success and value of the Cadet movement in 2010 as well as, among other things, act as a catalyst for Adult Volunteer and Cadet recruiting, and obtain wider support for the movement.

Army: Marines

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many lieutenant colonels there are in the *(a)* Army and *(b)* Royal Marines. [296429]

Bill Rammell: The number of Lieutenant Colonels in *(a)* the British Army and *(b)* the Royal Marines is given in the following table:

Lieutenant Colonels in the Regular Army and Royal Marines as at 1 September 2009

	Number
Army	[1]1,790
Royal Marines	[1]120

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

The figures are for trained Regular Army and Royal Marines only and therefore exclude Full-Time Reserve Service, Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, Mobilised Reserves, TA, all other Reserves and Gurkhas, but include those individuals that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.

Due to the implementation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System all Army strength statistics from 1 April 2007, and Naval Service strength statistics from 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

The numbers have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

British Forces Post Office

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has commissioned a review into the British Forces Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [296248]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Secretary of State for Defence has not commissioned a review into the British Forces Post Office.

Defence: Research

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department gave to each Defence Technology Centre in each of the last five years; and how much each centre spent in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* overseas in each such year. [295766]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence has placed contracts with the four Defence Technology Centres (DTC) each receiving the amounts set out in the following table in each of the last five years. Figures for the Electro Magnetic Remote Sensing (EMRS) DTC are based on actual outturn and those for the remaining DTCs are estimates. Information on location of spending is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

					£ million[1]
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Electro Magnetic Remote Sensing (EMRS)	5.0	5.0	6.7	6.0	5.0
Human Factors Integration (HFI)	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.8
Data and Information Fusion	5.0	5.0	4.0	6.0	6.0
Systems Engineering and Autonomous Systems (SEAS)	0	5.0	5.7	6.2	5.2

[1] Exclusive of VAT at current prices.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flights within Great Britain officials of his Department took in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [296534]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In financial year 2008-09, 175,342 single domestic flights were booked centrally. The data include both military personnel and civil servants as this information cannot be separated. The total cost was £15.9 million. Records are not held centrally of any commercial flights booked through other means.

All civilian and military travel is conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and Joint Services Publication 800.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296654]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD is firmly committed to delivering the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP). I have been appointed Value for Money (VFM) Minister and am supported in this role by a board composed of the Minister for Strategic Defence Acquisition Reform, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, the Second Permanent Under-Secretary and the Directors General Finance and Strategy, ensuring senior ownership for driving efficiency throughout the Department. A single programme has been established to deliver the VFM agenda, encompassing existing work and initiatives from the OEP and the Public Value Programme. This includes benchmarking of Defence back office costs and a review of MOD assets, where progress will be reported at Pre-Budget Report 2009. In addition, a "VFM Team" has been formed across MOD business areas which supports individuals at all levels in the delivery of VFM savings. Specifically on OEP, departmental leads have been appointed for each of the work strands to implement the recommendations. Ministers, senior officers and officials are fully aware of the guiding OEP principles established by HM Treasury. Value for money is integral to all the work of the Department and a wide range of learning and development opportunities are available to assist with driving the VFM programme.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable was set for the completion of the reports of the two studies announced by his Department in the last 12 months into the existence of a causal link between exposure to nuclear testing and veterans' illnesses. [297014]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The studies which I announced on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 6WS, were not designed to investigate the possible existence of a causal link between exposure to nuclear testing and veterans' illnesses, but to investigate the health needs of nuclear veterans. My officials have been meeting with representatives from the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association to agree the principles of this project. Expressions of interest have been invited from the academic community.

Hebrides Range

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will compensate Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Council of the Western Isles) for the money it spent supporting a taskforce to oppose the proposed plans to downgrade the Hebrides missile ranges. [295710]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No. Compensating Comhairle nan Eilean Siar does not constitute an appropriate use of Defence Funds.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government spent on its consultation over plans to downgrade the missile range and its associated sites on the Western Isles. [295712]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The consultation on the proposed changes at the Hebrides Range was conducted as part of normal departmental business and it is, therefore, not possible to provide a figure. The only discrete costs that can be identified relate to travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the MOD as a result of visits to the range in support of the consultation process. These costs amount to less than £2,000.

Helicopters: Training

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Chinook heavy lift helicopters are retained in a training role by the Royal Air Force *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [295210]

Bill Rammell: As at 29 October, the Ministry of Defence possesses 46 Chinook helicopters. Of these, 28 are in the Forward Fleet which is used for both operational purposes and for training. I cannot break this figure down as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the operational security of our armed forces.

However, I can confirm that all Chinooks routinely used for training are based at RAF Odiham. There are no Chinooks retained overseas for training purposes, although they may from time to time take part in overseas training exercises. Of the remaining 18 Chinooks, 10 are currently undergoing Depth Maintenance and eight are being converted into a Support Helicopter role.

HMS Endurance

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the *(a)* repair or *(b)* replacement of HMS Endurance. [296736]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Options for restoring our Ice Patrol capability are presently being examined and no final decisions on whether to repair or replace HMS Endurance have yet been taken.

HMS Prince of Wales

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether HMS Prince of Wales will be classified as an aircraft carrier or a helicopter and commando carrier; and if he will make a statement. [296613]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD placed a contract with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA) for the manufacture of two Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers, and we remain fully committed to the project. Both HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales are classified as aircraft carriers.

In addition to their primary role as aircraft carriers, the QE Class will provide a legitimate secondary role as an LPH platform when HMS Ocean is in refit, making the QE Class a versatile defence asset. This secondary role has always been a planning assumption of the QE Class.

HMS Queen Elizabeth

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* HMS Queen Elizabeth and *(b)* HMS Prince of Wales are expected to join the fleet; and what (i) types and (ii) quantities of each type of aircraft are to be carried on each. [296634]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The planned in-service dates for the HMS Queen Elizabeth and the HMS Prince of Wales are towards the end of 2015 and 2018 respectively.

The Queen Elizabeth Class Carriers will be capable of supporting a tailored Joint Force Air Group of up to 40 aircraft each. This will mainly comprise the Joint Strike Fighter, but will also include Merlin and Sea King Helicopters, depending on the nature of the tasks and the operating environment. Prior to the entry into service of the Joint Strike Fighter, it is intended that the primary fixed wing aircraft will be the Harrier GR9.

HMS Vanguard: Accidents

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how long HMS Vanguard was non-operational following her recent collision at sea; what the *(a)* cost of repair and *(b)* extent of the resultant damage was; and how long the repair work took. [296710]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Repairs to HMS Vanguard, following her collision with FS Le Triomphant earlier this year, were carried out at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde under existing support arrangements with Babcock costing approximately £1 million.

A seven week package of work was undertaken, which included both repairs and planned maintenance. While the work package was completed, HMS Vanguard remained available at the required notice to support the operational programme. I am withholding information about any damage sustained by HMS Vanguard on the grounds of national security.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel who have served in the Iraq war are from *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [296381]

Bill Rammell: This information is not held in the format requested. However, it is estimated that over 120,000 service personnel and civilians have served in Iraq over the last six years.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the correspondence of 7 July 2009 from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead sent on behalf of a constituent; and if he will make a statement. [296456]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I responded to the hon. Member's letter on 22 October. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Military Decorations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Queen's Golden Jubilee medals have been awarded; and at what cost to the public purse. [296800]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at the 12 January 2009, 165,503 medals were awarded to serving members of the armed forces at a cost of £16.30 per medal, plus VAT but not including administrative costs.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service veterans' medals for those who have served a minimum of *(a)* one, *(b)* four and *(c)* five years have been issued in each of the last 10 years; and at what cost. [296801]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We do not record the award, issue, and cost of medals in this format. Medals are only issued for campaigns and war. Any multiple tours to these theatres are recognised by the award of the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal.

Military Exercises: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2178W, on military exercises: nuclear weapons, on what dates the next joint US-UK nuclear weapon accident exercise will be held; and where it will be held. [296488]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The next joint US-UK nuclear weapon accident exercise will be held on 12-13 May 2010. This will comprise of a Field Training exercise on 12 May 2009 at Sculthorpe Training Ground followed by a Table Top exercise on 13 May 2009 at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

Nuclear Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on a future fourth submarine for the next generation of the nuclear deterrent. [296631]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 2006 White Paper (Cm 6994) said that if it is technically possible to deliver Continuous At Sea Deterrence, the policy of having one nuclear-armed submarine on patrol at all times, with three submarines then we would do so. The Prime Minister has asked for a report on this by the end of the year. The UK remains committed to Continuous At Sea Deterrence which is the backbone of our deterrence posture, ensuring a credible and capable deterrent against blackmail and acts of aggression against the UK's vital interests including her NATO allies by nuclear-armed opponents. Continuous At Sea Deterrence is the UK's most enduring current operation and has been successfully delivered for over 40 years by our dedicated service personnel.

Nuclear Weapons: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* names, *(b)* dates and *(c)* locations are of the nuclear weapons emergency exercises being organised by his Department in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [296477]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The names, dates and locations of the nuclear weapon emergency exercises in 2009 and 2010 are:

Exercise	*Date*	*Location*
Sitex (B) 09	22 October 2009	AWE Burghfield.
Bowline 09	25 November 2009	Royal Naval Armament Depot Coulport.
Astral Bend 10	12 and 13 May 2010	Sculthorpe Training Ground, Norfolk and RAF Mildenhall.
Bronze Endeavour 10	9 to 11 March 2010	Buckley Barracks, Hullavington Airfield, Wiltshire.

RAF Welford

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to transfer activities from RAF Fairford to RAF Welford. [296487]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to transfer activities from RAF Fairford to RAF Welford.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy *(a)* vessels and *(b)* personnel are deployed around the coast of Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [296902]

Bill Rammell: The Royal Navy has two frigates and a Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker deployed to the region. As part of their deployment they spend time off the coast of Somalia contributing to international counter piracy operations. Some 580 Royal Naval Service personnel are currently aboard these vessels.

Spain: Warships

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships have docked at Spanish ports in each of the last three years. [296957]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Royal Navy Ships

	Number
2007	16
2008	24
2009	[1]21

[1] To date

These figures represent all dockings by Royal Navy ships and may therefore include multiple dockings by the same ship in the same year.

Territorial Army: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army (TA) units there are in Scotland; how many members are in each such unit; how many members of TA units based in Scotland *(a)* have been deployed to (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq in each of the last five years and *(b)* have received military medals. [296852]

Bill Rammell: There are 15 Territorial Army (TA) units in Scotland and the number of members in each of those units as at 29 October 2009 is shown in the following table:

TA Unit	*Number of members*
105 Regiment The Royal Artillery	285
71 Engineer Regiment	197
6 Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	266
7 Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	384
Scottish Transport Regiment	259
225 General Service Medical Regiment	365
Headquarters 51 Brigade	74
32 Signal Regiment	239
Regional Headquarters and 243 Provost Company (5 Royal Military Police)	49
2 (Independent) Signal Squadron	98
205 Field Hospital (Volunteers)	149
153 Workshop Company The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (102 Battalion The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers)	53
52 Military Intelligence Company (5 Military Intelligence Battalion)	50
15 Company (4 Battalion The Parachute Regiment)	79
Queens Own Yeomanry	137

The number of TA members from Scottish-based TA units deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last five years is shown in the following tables:

Deployed to Iraq

					Number
TA Unit	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
105 Regiment The Royal Artillery	42	5	5	0	0
71 Engineer Regiment	0	1	0	1	1
6 Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	13	4	0	0	0
7 Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	25	104	4	4	32
Scottish Transport Regiment	0	2	4	0	1
225 General Service Medical Regiment	0	2	0	2	0
Headquarters 51 Brigade	0	0	0	0	0
32 Signal Regiment	5	5	5	5	5

Deployed to Iraq

TA Unit	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Number* *2009*
Regional Headquarters and 243 Provost Company (5 Royal Military Police)	9	9	9	9	9
2 (Independent) Signal Squadron	2	2	2	2	2
205 Field Hospital (Volunteers)	75	0	0	0	0
153 Workshop Company The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (102 Battalion The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers)	1	1	1	1	1
52 Military Intelligence Company (5 Military Intelligence Battalion)	7	3	1	1	0
15 Company (4 Battalion The Parachute Regiment)	25	1	0	1	0
Queens Own Yeomanry	1	2	0	1	0

Deployed to Afghanistan

TA Unit	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Number* *2009*
105 Regiment Royal Artillery	0	0	11	12	0
71 Engineer Regiment	0	1	0	1	20
6 Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	0	2	37	1	3
7 Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	1	2	0	11	0
Scottish Transport Regiment	0	0	4	0	1
225 General Service Medical Regiment	0	0	1	1	20
Headquarters 51 Brigade	0	0	0	0	0
32 Signal Regiment	5	5	5	5	5
Regional Headquarters and 243 Provost Company (5 Royal Military Police)	9	9	9	9	9
2 (Independent) Signal Squadron	2	2	2	2	2
205 Field Hospital (Volunteers)	0	0	0	0	0
153 Workshop Company The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (102 Battalion The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers)	1	1	1	1	1
52 Military Intelligence Company (5 Military Intelligence Battalion)	0	1	2	3	5
15 Company (4 Battalion The Parachute Regiment)	0	6	4	16	0
Queens Own Yeomanry	0	0	1	12	7

The Medals Office does not record whether an individual comes from a regular or TA unit when issuing military campaign medals. There is a medal which is specifically issued to TA personnel, the 'Volunteer Reserve Service Medal' which is the equivalent of the 'Long Service and Good Conduct Medal' issued to regular soldiers. However, the work required to cross-reference individual names against units would incur a disproportionate cost.

University Officer Training Corps

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on officer recruitment of changes to funding for the Officer Training Corps. [296267]

Bill Rammell: It is too soon to assess what effect, if any, changes to funding for the University Officer Training Corps may have on Army officer recruitment.

We hope that cadets will continue to make use of the outstanding leadership development opportunities which are available.

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* destroyers and *(b)* frigates are available to the fleet at (i) short and (ii) medium notice. [296612]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent to him on 6 March 2007. Information on the readiness levels of Royal Navy ships is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Elections

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many polling stations there will be in Afghanistan in the presidential run-off election on 7 November 2009; how many there were in the first round elections; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that voting is free and fair. [296787]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Around 6,300 polling centres opened on election day on 20 August 2009. Polling centres had on average four polling stations within them—for example a school used as a polling centre might have had four separate classrooms within it, with each classroom designated as a polling station.

The number of polling centres to be used in the second round is currently being reviewed by the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Afghan Ministries responsible for providing election security, taking into account the advice of the Election Complaints Commission (ECC). Any changes to the number of polling stations will take into account the need to provide suitable access to voters, ensure security and mitigate fraud, as well as IEC staffing levels.

We have given £16.5 million to the UN Development Programme, which is responsible for building the capacity of the IEC to enable it to conduct credible elections. We are continuing to work with the UN, the IEC and the Afghan National Security Forces to ensure the second round of the Afghan elections can take place in a credible and secure fashion where fraud is kept to a minimum. Throughout the election process, we have encouraged candidates to adhere to Afghanistan's Electoral Law and follow the process through, respecting the decisions of the IEC and ECC.

Following the first round of voting, the IEC and ECC successfully investigated and excluded thousands of fraudulent ballots. The final round of voting will again be held in challenging circumstances and will be rough and ready in places. Should fraud reoccur, despite international and Afghan efforts to mitigate this, these independent bodies will again work to ensure the result is a true reflection of the will of the Afghan people.

Australia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects to meet his Australian counterpart to discuss UK-Australian relations and global issues. [296906]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is expecting to meet his Australian counterpart during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held in Trinidad and Tobago on 27-29 November 2009.

British Council: Finance

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the monetary cost to the British Council has been of teachers visiting overseas countries in each of the last three years; and how many teachers received funding from the British Council for visits *(a)* in Europe and *(b)* outside Europe in each year. [296997]

Chris Bryant: The information requested is not held centrally by the British Council and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1516-7W, on the United Nations Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, by what means the fundamental principle on confidentiality of information will be implemented; and what criteria will be used to determine whether certain categories of nuclear material are subject to the provisions of the physical protection regime in the amendment to the Convention published as Cm 7685 in July 2009. [296889]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The Fundamental Principle on Confidentiality is already implemented in the UK through the provisions on protecting sensitive nuclear information contained in the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003.

The criteria for determining whether information is releasable (and hence not requiring to be protected as sensitive nuclear information) are set out in the "Finding a Balance" document published on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website. The objective of this document is to prevent the disclosure of sensitive nuclear information that could assist a person or group planning theft, blackmail, sabotage and other malevolent or illegal acts.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many properties his Department owns overseas; and what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of his Department's overseas estate; [292501]

(2) which 20 properties his Department owns overseas have the highest valuations; and what the valuation of each such property is. [292502]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) owns 2,119 properties overseas on a freehold or ground leasehold basis. The top 20 overseas properties by market value are set out in the following table:

Market value of top 20 FCO Overseas Properties as at 31 March 2009

Property name	*Market value rate (£ million)*
Bangkok compound[1]	103.8
Hong Kong compound[2]	78.1
Paris embassy	76.2
Mumbai Deputy high commission	69.0
Tehran Ferdowsi compound	65.5
Kuwait City compound[3]	60.0
Paris residence	53.9
Rome residence compound[4]	52.5
Buenos Aires compound[5]	51.7
Cairo compound[6]	51.5
Seoul compound	37.0
Washington compound	35.5
Tehran Gulhak compound	33.7
Bahrain Manama compound	29.5
Rome embassy compound[7]	29.0
Geneva residence	24.4
Copenhagen embassy compound	22.7
New Delhi compound	21.5
Athens residence	21.4
Athens office	18.6

Notes:

[1] Includes value of the Bangkok residence on the compound at £18.8 million.

[2] Includes value of the Hong Kong Consulate-General building on compound at £31.2 million.

[3] Includes value of the Kuwait City management building on the compound at £26 million.

[4] Includes value of the Rome residence on compound at £41.8 million.

[5] Includes value of the Buenos Aires residence on compound at£44 million.

[6] Includes value of the Cairo residence on the compound at £21.3 million.

[7] Includes value of the Rome embassy on the compound at £23.2 million.

These are the current market values expressed in sterling, which are subject to exchange rate fluctuations. The aggregate book value of all FCO properties is reassessed annually, and can be found in Volume 2, table 12: Tangible Fixed Assets on page 131 of the FCO's most recent published resource accounts, a copy of which is available on the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/publications-and-documents/publications1/annual-reports/departmental-report/

The book values of individual properties is also shown in the National Asset Register which can be accessed at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pse_investment_nar_2007_index.htm

Egypt: Elections

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Egyptian counterpart on the measures the Egyptian Government will take to ensure that the 2011 elections in that country are free, fair and transparent. [296932]

Chris Bryant: Our ambassador in Cairo raised the 2011 elections with the Director of the National Council for Human Rights in October. The elections were also raised with the Egyptian Government in the Political Subcommittee of the EU Association Agreement framework in July.

Our embassy also coordinates a donor group in Cairo, ensuring funding for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections is strategically spent to maximise its effect.

Guinea: Arms Trade

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to ensure that military equipment manufactured in the UK and exported to Guinea is used in compliance with the terms of the arms export licences issued by his Department. [296812]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All export licence applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the National and EU Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking into account the circumstances prevailing at the time. Licences will not be issued where there is a clear risk that the goods might be used for internal repression or if we assess that goods might be diverted from their stated end use.

The UK has not licensed any exports of military equipment to the Government of Guinea since 2000. Following the arms embargo imposed on Guinea by the EU on 27 October 2009, we will not licence any equipment that would be deemed incompatible with our international commitments under the embargo. We are constantly monitoring the situation in Guinea and will continue to take into account any changes in circumstances during our assessment of future applications.

Guinea: Human Rights

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to monitor the human rights situation in Guinea. [296814]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK strongly condemns the violent crackdown on peaceful demonstrators during the opposition rally of 28 September 2009 in Conakry, which resulted in gross violations of human rights, including deaths, injuries and rapes.

Our ambassador in Guinea is an active member of the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G) and maintains a constant dialogue with EU and G8 partners on the ground to ensure the UK fully monitors the human rights situation in Guinea. Our ambassadors in the West African region are also in contact with President Chambas of the Economic Community of Western African States and the governments of Guinea's neighbours.

The UK strongly supports the decision by the UN Secretary General to establish an International Commission of Inquiry into the events of 28 September 2009 and we will work closely with EU partners to take account of the initial recommendations by UN Assistant Secretary General, Haile Menkerios, following his recent visit to Guinea.

Guinea: Politics and Government

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the development of democratic government in Guinea. [296810]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is actively engaged with EU counterparts in Brussels and New York and through ambassadors in the region to press for a swift transition to democratic rule in Guinea.

Our ambassador in Guinea is a member of the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G) and has maintained a constant dialogue with EU partners on the ground. We fully support efforts by the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, working with appointed mediator, President Campoare of Burkina Faso, to re-establish dialogue with Guinean political parties and restore constitutional order and the rule of law.

Iran

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps at the United Nations he *(a)* has taken since July 2009 and *(b)* plans to take in the next six months on allegations of (i) arming and (ii) funding by Iran of Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [296558]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We take Iran's support, in the form of funding arms and training, to armed militants including Hamas very seriously.

We continue to work with international partners to urge Iran to play a more constructive role in the middle east region. We will continue to press for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions which prohibit Iran from supplying or selling arms or related material.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department plan to have with governments of Arab states on the statements about Israel made by the President of Iran at the United Nations General Assembly; and if he will make a statement. [296566]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have regular and ongoing dialogue at an official and political level with Arab states on wide range of regional issues including Iran.

The Government have consistently condemned the Iranian President's inflammatory comments about the State of Israel and his offensive statements about the Holocaust. Such rhetoric is a recipe for instability and only serves to undermine international confidence in Iran's willingness to act as a respectable member of the international community. We will continue to speak out in response to such deplorable and ignorant comments.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the progress Iran has made toward the acquisition of a nuclear weapon; and if he will make a statement. [296613]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We remain extremely concerned about Iran's nuclear programme.

In August 2009 the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) Director General reported that Iran had not suspended its enrichment activities contrary to the requirements of five UN Security Council Resolutions and still refuses to answer questions about studies with a possible military dimension. Meanwhile Iran continues to produce low enriched uranium (it now has over 1,500 kg stockpiled according to the IAEA) which could be used to produce high enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon.

The fact that Iran has been covertly developing an enrichment facility near Qom, in breach of UN and IAEA obligations, casts further doubt on its peaceful intentions.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to raise the issue of the Iranian nuclear programme in the UN Security Council; and if he will make a statement. [296621]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: When Ministers from the E3+3 met in New York on 23 September 2009, they made clear that we were all still committed to the dual-track policy, which includes further action at the UN Security Council if necessary. They also agreed that decisions on our next steps would be taken in the light of meetings with Iran. On 1 October 2009 in Geneva, Iran agreed to a further meeting before the end of the month to focus on its nuclear programme. Iran has not yet agreed to a date for this.

Iraq: Iran

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1961W, on Iraq: human rights, whether British embassy officials in Baghdad have now undertaken a further visit to Camp Ashraf; what assessment he has made of levels of human rights violations at the camp; and if he will make a statement. [296388]

Chris Bryant: We have received reports that Camp Ashraf is calm and that there have been no incidents of further violence since July's events. Officials from our embassy in Baghdad visited Camp Ashraf on 26 September 2009. They confirmed that the Iraqi police and security forces are still maintaining a presence in the camp and are co-operating peacefully with the residents. The 36 residents detained on 28 July 2009 have been returned to the camp.

Our embassy in Baghdad has received a reply from the Iraqi Minister of Human Rights to the ambassador's letter asking for an official review of July's events. The Minister confirmed that a Government committee has been set up to look into the events of 28 July 2009 and that officials from the Ministry visited the camp as well as the 36 detainees. The Minister also confirmed that the Government of Iraq would continue to deal with the residents of the camp with respect for their human rights and according to the International Declaration on Human Rights in co-operation with UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Red Cross and the Office of Human Rights of the UN.

As the right hon. Member may know, my hon. Friend Ivan Lewis met colleagues on the Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom on 15 October. If he is able to visit Iraq in the near future, he will raise the issues that were discussed on Camp Ashraf with the Iraqi Government at the highest levels.

Israel

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on *(a)* an academic boycott and, *(b)* a general boycott of Israel. [296642]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I discuss the situation in the Middle East with a wide range of stakeholders including trade unions and non-governmental organisations. As I have made clear to them and publicly, the Government are opposed to boycotts of Israel. This, among other issues, was also discussed in my meeting, on 27 October 2009, with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon. We both agreed on the need to make progress towards a two-state solution and the detrimental impact that boycotts of Israel would have both on that goal and bilateral ties.

Libya: Arms Trade

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the export of arms to Libya; and if he will make a statement. [295956]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 October 2009]*: All arms exports to Libya are assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

We take into account fully the prevailing circumstances in Libya, particularly in respect of the human rights situation in that country, in making these assessments.

Middle East

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the policy of the Israeli government on the *(a)* volume and *(b)* type of goods entering Gaza from (i) Israel and (ii) Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [296624]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Some basic humanitarian assistance has been entering Gaza through the crossings from Israel, but the overall flow of goods into Gaza remains severely limited. Israel has not provided clarity on what types or volumes of goods it will and will not permit to enter Gaza. The flow of goods and materials falls far short of addressing basic human needs of Gaza's estimated 1.5 million people and prevents all but token efforts towards reconstruction. On average, the government of Israel allows the transfer of just 60 per cent. of the industrial fuel required per week to operate Gaza's only power plant at the current maximum capacity of 80 megawatts. The number of trucks carrying humanitarian and commercial goods is routinely restricted to approximately a third of the weekly average before restrictions were tightened. The import of building materials and agricultural inputs is heavily curtailed.

The Rafah crossing from Egypt is primarily a pedestrian crossing and is often closed. Restrictions imposed by the government of Israel also affect goods passing formally from Egypt, which are channelled via Israel through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

Large quantities of a wide variety of items continue to enter Gaza from Egypt via tunnels. Given the illicit nature of the trade, it is hard to quantify the trade. Reports from Gaza suggest that a wide variety of goods which cannot be imported any other way are entering through the tunnels, and are then available on the open market. Arms are undoubtedly part of this trade. According to a recent UN report, approximately 100,000 litres of diesel and 100,000 litres of petrol are transferred into Gaza via the tunnels each day.

We will continue to urge action to press the Israeli authorities to ease border restrictions into Gaza and allow the passage of essential humanitarian aid and reconstruction material. The Prime Minister stressed this point most recently in his joint letter, on 16 October 2009, with President Sarkozy to Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the UK did not participate in the recent vote on the report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict at the meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva; and if he will make a statement. [296389]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made it absolutely clear that while aspects of the Goldstone report were flawed it raised very serious issues that we want to see addressed. We also made it clear that the resolution did not adequately address Hamas' actions and Israel's right to protect its citizens.

We did not vote because we were in the middle of detailed discussions about three key issues: the establishment of an independent inquiry, access for humanitarian aid to Gaza and how to restart the peace process. We were pursuing these at the highest level, between my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, French President Sarkozy and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel. The vote was called in the middle of those discussions and we did not wish to compromise the detailed work on those fundamental issues.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* violent incidents in Jerusalem and *(b)* the numbers of people injured in such incidents. [296499]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are extremely concerned by recent disturbances in Jerusalem. We are unable to confirm the numbers of people injured, but our consulate general in Jerusalem is monitoring the situation on the ground extremely closely.

We call on all parties to show restraint, and refrain from provocative actions in order to prevent the situation escalating. The EU presidency made this clear to both Israeli and Palestinian authorities on 26 October 2009.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on investigations by the Israeli government in relation to the recent conflict with Palestine. [296500]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had numerous conversations with Israeli and Palestinian leaders as well as with key Arab, European and US partners about the need for proper investigations of abuses alleged to have been committed by both sides during the Gaza conflict. I raised the need for such investigations with my Israeli counterpart on 27 October 2009. Our officials in Tel Aviv, Geneva, New York and elsewhere have also discussed the issue with their counterparts.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps at the United Nations he *(a)* has taken since July 2009 and *(b)* plans to take in the next six months to seek to prevent (i) weapons and (ii) funds from the government of Iran being sent to terrorist groups in (A) Afghanistan, (B) Iraq, (C) Gaza and (d) Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [296573]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government fully support UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1747, paragraph five of which calls upon Iran not to supply, sell or transfer directly or indirectly from its territory any arms or related materiel, as well as other relevant UNSCRs including 1701 and 1860.

Following a number of interdicted shipments, we assess that Iran continues to act in breach of that Resolution by its ongoing supplying of weapons and funding to militia in Iraq, the Taliban in Afghanistan, Hamas and Hezbollah. This is unacceptable and further undermines international confidence in Iran.

We will continue to work through the UN and with international partners to urge Iran to comply with its UN obligations.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has *(a)* taken during the last six months and *(b)* plans to take during the next six months to tackle the shipment of weapons and funds from Iran to (i) Afghanistan, (ii) Iraq, (iii) Lebanon and (iv) Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [296574]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We take Iran's support for militia in Iraq, the Taleban in Afghanistan, Hamas and Hezbollah seriously and will continue to work with international partners to urge Iran to play a more constructive role in the middle east region. We will continue to support the full implementation of existing UN Security Council Resolutions which prohibit Iran from supplying or selling arms or related materiel.

Iranian support to illegitimate armed groups in Iraq (including supply of weapons, training or funding) is unacceptable.

We have successfully interdicted some Iranian weapon shipments in Afghanistan which has led to temporary reductions in activity. We will continue to work with the Afghan Government to confront this.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the level of smuggling of *(a)* arms and *(b)* other material into Gaza from (i) Egypt and (ii) other countries; and if he will make a statement. [296612]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The level of smuggling of other material into Gaza is significant, but difficult to assess. Reports from Gaza suggest that a wide variety of goods which cannot be imported any other way are entering through the tunnels, and are then available on the open market. Arms are undoubtedly part of this trade. According to a recent UN report approximately 100,000 litres of diesel and 100,000 litres of petrol are transferred into Gaza via the tunnels each day.

We will continue to urge action to prevent arms smuggling and press the Israeli authorities to ease border restrictions into Gaza and allow the passage of essential humanitarian aid and reconstruction material. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stressed this point most recently in his joint letter, on 16 October 2009, with President Sarkozy to Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effectiveness of the security barrier between Israel and the West Bank in preventing terrorist activity in Israel; and if he will make a statement. [296625]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Israel is entitled to build a security barrier to protect its citizens from acts of violence. But the barrier should be confined to Israeli territory and not encroach on occupied territory. In some places, the barrier breaks up Palestinian territory, cuts Palestinian farmers off from their land and divides Palestinian communities, separating people from their families. We have particular concerns about the route of the barrier near East Jerusalem.

In recent years, there has been a drop in the number of terrorist attacks in Israel. The political context is clearly an important factor. The barrier, which remains far from complete, may have played a role. There has also been a notable improvement in security provided by the Palestinian Authority Security Forces in the West Bank in line with Palestinian commitments under the Roadmap.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to seek to secure the release of missing Israeli servicemen reported to be held by *(a)* Hezbollah, *(b)* Hamas and *(c)* Iran; and if he will make a statement. [296650]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In August 2009, I met Gilad Shalit's father during my visit to Israel and I reaffirmed, both privately and publicly, our call for Hamas to release Gilad Shalit immediately and without conditions.

Middle East: Economic Situation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress in economic development in *(a)* the West Bank and *(b)* Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [296618]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories remains difficult. According to the World Bank, gross domestic product is estimated to have declined by 34 per cent. in real per capita terms over the last decade.

More recently, increased international aid in 2008 and 2009 has allowed Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad to stabilise the public finances and pay salaries in both the West Bank and Gaza. The economy of the West Bank has also benefited from the improved security provided by the Palestinian security forces and from the removal of some obstacles to movement around the West Bank by the Israeli Government.

The International Monetary Fund recently estimated that growth in the West Bank could reach 7 per cent. for 2009. But unemployment remains close to double the level of a decade ago and much more needs to be done to return the economy to sustainable growth.

In Gaza, the situation remains extremely serious. Israeli restrictions mean the productive sector of the economy has come to an almost complete standstill. Some 95 per cent. of the manufacturing sector has shut operations and exports have effectively ceased. The economy now depends on Palestinian Authority and UN salaries together with illicit earnings from smuggling as the main sources of income. Official unemployment stands at 42 per cent. but the actual figure is likely to be in excess of 50 per cent. and there are worrying levels of aid dependence.

We are working to support economic growth. We also call on the Israeli Government to go further in removing movement restrictions, to release telecoms frequencies for a second Palestinian mobile operator, to resume normal banking relations with Palestinian banks and to remove other barriers to economic growth.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the report of the UN fact finding mission of the Gaza conflict; and if he will make a statement. [296615]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As our ambassador made clear to the Human Rights Council, the UN fact finding mission on Gaza has its flaws:

> not adequately recognising Israel's right to protect its citizens or paying sufficient attention to Hamas's actions;
>
> making broad assertions about detailed interpretation of international law with which we differ; and
>
> (because Israel did not cooperate) lacking an authoritative Israeli perspective so crucial to determining the legality of actions.

However, the report raises very important issues that are of serious concern and that we want to see addressed. Rocket attacks by Palestinian militants targeted at innocent civilians in southern Israel constitute a breach of international humanitarian law. The report also makes serious allegations about Israeli conduct and we urge the Israeli Government to carry out full, credible and impartial investigations into the concerns raised by the report.

The full text of our intervention can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/press-statement/11644804/21015315/goldstone-161009.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on the Middle East peace process; and if he will make a statement. [296622]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The US Administration, from the President down, have made clear their commitment to restarting negotiations and continue to work towards that goal. We are offering them our full support, as my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 11 October 2009 and Senator George Mitchell on 28 October 2009. While significant obstacles undoubtedly remain, the alternatives to credible negotiations towards a two-state solution are far worse.

Police Dependants' Trust

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the purposes for which the payment for £250,000 given to his Department on behalf of Colonel Gadaffi by the hon. Member for Southend East in March 1993 and intended for the Police Dependants' Trust was used. [296733]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold information relating to a payment of £250,000 made by the Libyan Government in 1993. The FCO is aware, however, that upon resumption of diplomatic relations in 1999 the Libyan Government admitted general responsibility for the murder of WPC Fletcher and agreed to pay compensation to the Fletcher family.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many incidents of piracy involving *(a)* UK-owned vessels and *(b)* [illegible] citizens have occurred in the waters off the coast of Somalia since January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [296898]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As of 29 October 2009 there has only been one incident with UK citizens onboard this year, which involved the UK-owned yacht Lynn Rival with two UK citizens onboard.

In May 2009 there was an attempted attack on the UK-owned merchant vessel Hibiya Park but the attack was disrupted.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial assistance his Department has provided for international efforts to tackle piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia since 2008; and if he will make a statement. [296899]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As part of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has led and funded two needs assessments missions alongside the EU, UN and US to the countries surrounding Somalia in order to assess the priorities for development in the legal, judicial, penal and maritime sectors. They have visited Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Yemen, Tanzania and the Seychelles. The FCO has also funded the participation of key partners, such as Somali representatives, at meetings of Working Group 1 of the CGPCS. It has also funded UK attendance at national and international meetings discussing efforts to counter piracy.

The UK is contributing to three international counter-piracy operations: providing the operation headquarters and operation commander to the EU Naval Force (Operation Atalanta); a frigate, tanker, and deputy commander to the Combined Maritime Forces; and a frigate and the current command of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 conducting Operation Ocean Shield. The FCO contributes to the UK's tri-departmental assessed contributions of £1.2 million towards the cost of Operation Atalanta. The UK also provides the UK Maritime Trade Organisation, coordinating the movement of merchant shipping and acting as a first point of contact for any ships attacked in the region.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of international efforts to tackle piracy in the waters around the coast of Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [296900]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Although this year has seen an increase in the number of attempted pirate attacks (156 attacks from January-September 2009, compared to 111 attacks from January-September 2008), the number of successful attacks has reduced significantly, especially in the critical Gulf of Aden transit artery. According to International Maritime Bureau statistics the actual rate of successful hijacking against attacks has reduced from one in three in December 2008 to one in 11 in June 2009.

Up to 30 September 2009 the EU Naval Force had successfully escorted 44 World Food Programme (WFP) vessels, providing 220,880 tons of aid to Somalia, which the WFP would otherwise not have been able to send.

Furthermore international efforts to tackle piracy off the coast of Somalia have achieved unprecedented levels of naval coordination with international partners including India and China coordinating their efforts with EU, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and coalition forces through a Shared Awareness and Deconfliction forum. The Contact Group of Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) represents 53 nations. The CGPCS also established the New York Declaration (to which the UK is a signatory) that strengthens best management practices in dealing with piracy as well as supporting regional capabilities to tackle piracy.

The international community in conjunction with the International Maritime Organisation have also established a code of best practice for industry while travelling off the coast of Somalia. Between December 2008 and October 2009 there has only been one successful attack on a ship complying with best management practices while transiting the Gulf of Aden. Agreements have been initiated with Kenya and the Seychelles to allow pirates apprehended in the region to be prosecuted there.

Collectively, these measures are improving the effectiveness of the international community's efforts to tackle piracy off the coast of Somalia, but in the long term the solution has to be found on land. To this end Working Group 1 (chaired by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) led a regional needs assessment to the Horn of Africa in September 2009, which provided a clear map on how regional states can be assisted in addressing piracy on land as well as at sea.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times Working Group 1 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia has met since its formation; and what topics were discussed at such meetings. [296901]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Working Group 1 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia has met five times since its formation. It is chaired by the UK and has met formally four times and once informally. The meetings discuss, among other issues, how international warships can better coordinate their operations, how to improve regional capacity to prosecute suspect pirates, and how the shipping industry can better protect itself from attack.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on travelling in waters around the coast of Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [296936]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides specific recommendations both to commercial vessels and to members of the public while travelling near Somali waters. This information is available on the FCO website.

In terms of commercial advice, specific guidance is given in relation to the practical steps in avoiding pirates which have been shown to significantly reduce the chances of a successful pirate attack. The advice also links to guidance from Department of Transport and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. It advises ships to register with the EU's Maritime Security—Horn of Africa website and transit through the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor in addition to adhering to the latest Maritime Advisories in force throughout the piracy threat region.

The Government endorse the advice prepared by the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia which provides specific advice on how to prevent, deter and delay acts of piracy off the Horn of Africa. The Maritime Security Centre—Horn of Africa website contains general advice to shipping companies, and the UK Maritime Trade Organisation advises mariners on planning their passage through the Gulf of Aden.

As Chair of Working Group 1 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia (CGPCS), the FCO has been instrumental in securing greater dissemination and adherence to industry's best practice for vessels travelling in the waters in the vicinity off the coast of Somalia. The FCO also signed the New York Declaration which provided further guidance to industry in relation to best management practices to avoid and deter acts of piracy.

In terms of specific advice to members of the public travelling in waters in the vicinity of the coast of Somalia, the FCO advises mariners to remain at least 200 nautical miles from the Somali coast when transiting between the equator and 08N latitude, and 100 nautical miles from Somalia's northern coastline in the Gulf of Aden. However, as pirates have been using mother ships to attack shipping further than 200 nautical miles from the Somali coast, the FCO also advises mariners to maintain a high level of vigilance and to exercise extreme caution when anywhere near Somali waters.

This advice is provided within the FCO's travel advice relating to the Indian Ocean as well as more specifically the advice provided to individuals intending to travel to Seychelles, Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania. The River and Sea Safety section of travel advice also advises yachters travelling in their own yacht or boat to be aware of the risks of piracy in the Indian Ocean.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what activities the troika of the UK, US and Norway have undertaken in the Sudan over recent months. [296952]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have had extensive discussions on the political situation and prospects for Sudan with the US Special Envoy, Major General Scott Gration, since his appointment in March 2009. The US Envoy had several meetings in the early summer with my noble Friend, the then Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown and continues to meet regularly with the UK Special Representative for Sudan. They met most recently in Moscow on 6 October 2009 and in Abuja on 29 October 2009.

Both US Envoy Gration, and the UK Special Representative have strongly expressed their support for African Union/UN Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé and the State of Qatar in their efforts to find a political solution for Darfur, and stand ready to offer all necessary assistance.

The UK, US and Norway have in recent months re-established the Troika mechanism as part of the international effort on Sudan. Officials from the UK, US and Norway are currently in Sudan to discuss Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation issues with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US emissary to Sudan on the co-ordination of the Government's and US efforts to resolve the conflict in Darfur. [296953]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have had extensive discussions on the political situation and prospects for Sudan with the US Special Envoy, Major General Scott Gration, since his appointment in March 2009. The US Envoy had several meetings in the early summer with my noble Friend, the then Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown and continues to meet regularly with the UK Special Representative for Sudan. They met most recently in Moscow on 6 October 2009 and in Abuja on 29 October 2009.

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Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Sudan on its response to clashes in the south of that country. [296466]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are very concerned by the continuing insecurity in South Sudan as a result of tribal violence and continuing activity by the Lord's Resistance Army.

While attending the UN General Assembly in New York last month, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation in South Sudan with Sudanese presidential adviser Ghazi. Our ambassador to Sudan visited Juba on 28-30 September 2009 and raised UK concerns about the security situation with the Government of South Sudan's Interior Minister and the Sudan People's Liberation Army chief of staff.

These messages were reinforced when my hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development (Mr. Thomas) visited Sudan on 14-15 October 2009. He discussed our concerns at the security situation with Government of South Sudan interlocutors in Juba.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Major-General Scott Gration, the US emissary to Sudan, on the political situation in that country. [296467]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have had extensive discussions on the political situation and prospects for Sudan with the US Special Envoy, Major-General Scott Gration, since his appointment in March 2009. The US Envoy had several meetings in the early summer with my noble Friend, the then Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown and continues to meet regularly with the UK special representative for Sudan. They met most recently in Moscow on 6 October 2009 and in Abuja on 29 October 2009.

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The UK, US and Norway have in recent months re-established the Troika mechanism as part of the international effort on Sudan. Officials from the UK, US and Norway are currently in Sudan to discuss Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation issues with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to *(a)* the government of Sudan and *(b)* others on the new agreement on the forthcoming referendum on the future status of Sudan; and what the Government's policy is on the new eligibility criteria for a vote on secession in Sudan. [296468]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development (Mr. Thomas) visited Khartoum and Juba on 14-15 October 2009 and met with senior members of the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), including presidential adviser Ghazi, and Southern Minister of Internal Affairs Geir Chuang. He pressed them to take urgent steps to resolve the impasse over the census and referendum.

Our ambassador and other senior Government officials, and the chair of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, Sir Derek Plumbly, regularly raise these issues with NCP and SPLM interlocutors. Officials from the UK, US and Norway are currently in Sudan to discuss Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation issues with the SPLM and NCP.

We are committed to a free and fair referendum in 2011. The eligibility criteria and content of the Referendum Bill are for the parties to reach agreement over, and we urge both parties to do so urgently.

UN Security Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1627, on the UN Security Council, if he will *(a)* publish the web location of the statement released after the September 2009 meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council, *(b)* post on his Department's website the presentations on enhancing strategic stability referred to in the Answer and *(c)* publish a list of those who attended the meeting and their official positions. [297421]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The P5 (Russia, China, the US, the UK and France) agreed that the conference held on 3 to 4 September 2009 to consider the confidence building, verification and compliance challenges associated with achieving further progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation would be held behind closed doors to facilitate full and frank discussion.

The joint statement issued at the conclusion of the conference can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=20804873

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of arrangements for licensing animal dealers, with particular reference to the effect of such arrangements on the welfare of puppies imported from the Republic of Ireland. [297261]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have made no assessment as England does not have any such licensing arrangement.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to bring forward secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to make provision for pet vending. [297401]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Although DEFRA intends to review the law on the selling of pet animals, such a review will not take place during this business year. The timing of a review will largely depend on balancing priorities.

Animals: Quarantine

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department next plans to review the list of non-EU countries and territories from which mammals may enter the UK under the PETS Scheme without going into quarantine. [296378]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* The PETS travel scheme and quarantine requirements are in place to protect the UK from serious diseases, such as rabies.

The list of countries from which animals may enter the UK under the PETS scheme without going into quarantine is set out in European legislation (see Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 as amended). In order to be included in that list, countries need to demonstrate to the European Commission that they meet certain criteria set out in the regulation. Inclusion is then subject to agreement by EU member states.

Biofuels

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take *(a)* to set specifications for biomass boilers and *(b)* to ensure the maintenance of air quality standards in respect of biomass boiler emissions. [296636]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Operators of appliances with a rated thermal input of 20 megawatts or more in which biomass is combusted need a permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 which will contain emission limit values set by the relevant environmental regulator. If the biomass is waste, permits are required if the rated thermal input of the appliance exceeds 0.4 megawatts.

The use of biomass for heat and power can pose a significant air quality problem. Large scale heat or combined heat and power schemes should not normally be used in heavily built-up areas (subject to an Environmental report) unless they are of high quality (20g/GJ PM10 or less) or have efficient abatement equipment specified. There are, however, technology options coming on stream which could substantially reduce emissions, even in urban areas (ceramic filters, for example). It would be easy to infer that biomass should not be encouraged in air quality management areas, which obviously already have a significant problem with air pollution. Seeking non-combustion alternatives—ground or air source heat pumps, solar thermal, better building design should be the first option; the second is to attempt to group users together—this allows the use of a smaller number of larger plants, and larger plants are easier to control.

Biofuels: Air Pollution

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of levels of emissions of *(a)* fine PM2.5 particulates and *(b)* PM10 particulates from biomass boilers once the biomass targets in the Renewable Energy Strategy are met. [295780]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government, in support of the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES), carried out modelling of the effect of an increase in the use of biomass for heat and power on emissions of fine particles (PM2.5) and coarser particles (PM10) under a range of scenarios. Polices in the Renewable Energy Strategy will lead to emissions being at the lower end of the ranges quoted.

We estimate that, by 2020, the uptake of biomass predicted by the RES will result in the emission of an additional 1.7 to 6.3 ktonnes of fine particles (PM2.5). The 2007 UK emissions of PM2.5 were estimated at 82 ktonnes.

For the coarser particle size fraction, PM10, it is estimated that an additional 1.3 to 7.6 ktonnes may be emitted. Emissions of PM10 in the UK in 2007 were estimated at 135 ktonnes.

The results of the air quality impact assessment using these emission estimates are given on page 121 of the RES. In the strategy the Government stated that they will work with industry to introduce performance standards for biomass units and will consult on the level of performance required for boilers under the Renewable Heat Incentive.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken into particulate emissions from biomass boilers and their effect upon climate change. [296019]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government, in support of the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES), carried out modelling of the effect of an increase in the use of biomass for heat and power on emissions of fine particles (PM2.5) and coarser particles (PM10) under a range of scenarios. Polices in the Renewable Energy Strategy will lead to emissions being at the lower end of the ranges quoted.

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The results of the air quality impact assessment using these emission estimates are given on page 121 of the RES. In the Strategy the Government stated that they will work with industry to introduce performance standards for biomass units and will consult on the level of performance required for boilers under the Renewable Heat Incentive.

No assessment has been made of the impact on climate change of these emissions.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the scientific evidence commissioned by his Department on the re-testing of cattle following an inconclusive test result for bovine tuberculosis. [296452]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In accordance with standard practice we will publish the full Impact Assessment, including cost benefit analysis, in support of this policy change. This will be available on the DEFRA website before the end of the year

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether restrictions have been placed on the use of the grant provided by the European Commission Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health for implementation of the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Programme in respect of the operation of the programme in Wales. [295984]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Commission's Decision clearly sets out what the UK including Wales is able to apply for in terms of reimbursements for the costs of tuberculin testing, gamma interferon blood testing and compensation for cattle slaughtered. This is not a restriction; it is a rule of the funding programme that the UK Bovine TB Eradication Plan for 2010 is an application to.

The Decision sets out the maximum of the costs that member states can claim for each:

Tuberculin test: €1.75 per test

Gamma-interferon test: €5 per test

Compensation: €375 per animal.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the merits of testing for bovine tuberculosis annually in all parishes, as is done in Wales. [297811]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Bovine TB Eradication Group for England has recently reviewed the approach taken to setting routine TB testing frequencies to a risk based approach as announced in its report published on 8 October. Extending more frequent routine TB testing to more of the country would come at a high cost. As TB is a largely regional issue, concentrated in England in the south west and west midlands, with large areas in the north and east predominantly clear, this risk based approach is deemed a more proportionate and effective use of resources.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce emissions of black carbon in England and Wales. [296820]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Black carbon emissions are being tackled as part of a wider package of measures to reduce particulate matter (PM) emissions across the UK. Black carbon is emitted through combustion processes and is a constituent of PM, which is consistently associated with respiratory and cardio-vascular illness and mortality. Black carbon is also a global warming agent.

Measures to reduce particulate matter emissions are included in the UK Government's time extension notification:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/air-quality/index.htm

under the ambient air quality directive (2008/50/EC), which sets out how EU ambient air quality limits for PM will be met in the few remaining at-risk areas by 2011. This includes parts of London, and the Government have been working with the Mayor of London on a draft Air Quality Strategy:

http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/air_quality/docs/AQS09.pdf

which includes new measures to address particulate emissions, particularly from transport sources, across the capital.

Emissions from diesel vehicles are one significant source of black carbon so the introduction of measures that encourage the early uptake of new vehicles compliant with the most stringent European vehicle emission standards is being pursued.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce a ban on the use of all non-domesticated animals in circuses; and if he will make a statement. [296786]

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. [296207]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Wild animals used in travelling circuses are protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which prevents unnecessary cruelty or suffering to any vertebrate animal. The Act makes owners and keepers responsible for ensuring that the welfare needs of their animals are met. This includes the need: for a suitable environment (place to live); for a suitable diet; to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (if applicable); and to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

A Feasibility Study is currently under way looking at the possibility of regulating wild animal acts in travelling circuses. The Feasibility Study is nearing completion and I intend to review the findings carefully.

Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit the submission for competition of dogs with docked tails to dog shows which charge no entrance fee to spectators. [297284]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 prohibits the showing of a dog that has had its tail docked on or after 6 April 2007 at an event to which members of the public are admitted on payment of a fee (except where a certified docked dog is being shown only for the purpose of demonstrating its working ability). Any suggestions for amendments to the docking of dogs' tails provisions in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 will be considered when the Act is reviewed.

Dogs: Quarantine

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received on proposals to exempt search and rescue dogs from quarantine when they enter the UK from search and rescue missions in parts of the world where mammals are required to be quarantined. [296377]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* The hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) raised the case of the rescue dog Darcy with the Secretary of State, and we have subsequently received a number of representations about this case.

The Government recognise the excellent work carried out by search and rescue dogs in responding to overseas disasters, such as the recent earthquake in Indonesia, and their rapid and valuable response to such emergencies.

We also appreciate the difficulty the current quarantine requirements cause for owners of these rescue dogs, particularly the rule requiring that dogs coming into the UK from certain countries, including Indonesia, are placed in quarantine on their arrival. This long-standing rule is in place to protect the UK from the incursion of serious diseases such as rabies.

DEFRA officials are discussing the specific case of Darcy the search and rescue dog with representatives from the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. We are considering within the current requirements how to minimise the burden our quarantine our quarantine rules place on these animals, particularly on their training programme, but the requirements are important and need to be observed.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1157W, on dogs: quarantine, how he defined formal representation in that answer; whether he has received any representations on the search and rescue dog Darcy since the date of that answer; and if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure that search and rescue dogs do not have to enter quarantine on return from missions abroad. [296944]

Jim Fitzpatrick: At the time the parliamentary answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1157W, was drafted, the Secretary of State had not received any formal (i.e. written) representations on the search and rescue dog Darcy. The hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) has raised the case with the Secretary of State, and we have subsequently received a number of parliamentary questions and letters, including one specific request from the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

DEFRA has discussed the case of Darcy the search and rescue dog with representatives from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. Although the rabies quarantine legislation does not provide for an absolute exemption from quarantine to be granted in these circumstances, the Government are hopeful that we will be able to find a training regime which proves an acceptable compromise between the needs of these dogs, and the requirement that we protect the UK from devastating diseases like rabies.

The Government will pursue this approach and has no plans to amend the law, although discussions with the European Commission and other EU member states are continuing about the overall future of the UK's pet movement rules.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many rescue dogs there are in quarantine following their deployment on missions overseas. [297006]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government do not collect this specific data.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many representations he has received requesting special dispensation to enable Darcy, the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service rescue dog, to be released from quarantine; and if he will make a statement. [297007]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Six parliamentary questions have been asked by two Members of Parliament this month on the quarantining of rescue dogs. To date we have received eight letters from Members, two letters from people directly related to this case, and five specific representations from members of the public. DEFRA has also received 172 declarations of support for the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service "Free Darcy" campaign.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will amend the policy of quarantine for animals entering the UK to exclude rescue dogs attached officially to recognised Urban Search and Rescue organisations; and if he will make a statement. [297008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government recognise the excellent work carried out by search and rescue dogs in responding to overseas disasters, such as the recent earthquake in Indonesia, and their rapid and valuable response to such emergencies.

We also appreciate the difficulty the current quarantine requirements cause for owners of these rescue dogs, particularly the rule requiring that dogs coming into the UK from certain countries, including Indonesia, are placed in quarantine on their arrival. This long-standing rule is in place to protect the UK from the incursion of serious diseases such as rabies.

DEFRA has discussed the case of Darcy the search and rescue dog with representatives from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. Although the rabies quarantine legislation does not provide for an absolute exemption from quarantine to be granted in these circumstances, the Government are hopeful that we will be able to find a training regime which proves an acceptable compromise between the needs of these dogs, and the requirement that we protect the UK from devastating diseases like rabies. Darcy will also be able to travel from the UK to any other country to help with search and rescue if there were to be another emergency.

Floods

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of remedying flood damage in each year since 1997. [297294]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Where information is available, the Environment Agency records the extent of flooding; however, complete estimates of actual flood damage in past years are not recorded centrally.

The Environment Agency's Flooding in England report estimates that the expected annual cost of damages to properties at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea in

England is more than £1 billion. Estimates of flood damage caused by some of the larger individual events in recent years are £3 billion for the summer 2007 flooding, £450 million for Cumbria in 2005 and £1 billion for the autumn 2000 events.

Food

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is the Government's policy to reduce domestic food production in order to achieve renewable energy targets; and if he will make a statement. [296921]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As stated in the Renewable Energy Strategy, the UK biomass sector has the potential to expand without detrimental effects on food supplies and the environment if it is done in a sustainable manner. Greater recovery of wood from managed and unmanaged woodland, increasing the planting of perennial energy crops and better exploitation of the existing supply of organic waste materials, could make a significant contribution to our energy targets, particularly in the heat and electricity sectors. Imported biomass products are also likely to continue to play a role in the UK use of bio-energy.

The UK is working in the Global Bioenergy Partnership to help build international consensus on voluntary sustainability criteria and indicators for bio-energy and biofuels, including for potential impacts on food security.

National Parks: Planning Permission

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he issues to the authorities of national parks on the procedures to be followed in examining expressions of intent to apply for permission for development within a national park; and if he will make a statement. [296410]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

There is no Government guidance on this specific matter. However, Planning Policy Statement 1—Delivering Sustainable Development—encourages local planning authorities in general to take a positive attitude towards early engagement in pre-application discussions. As part of our response to the Killian Pretty Review, we intend to issue for consultation later this year further policy guidance on pre-application engagement.

Noise: Motorways

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people reside within the 75 decibel noise contour of *(a)* the M3 between Winchester and its junction with the M27 and *(b)* the M27 between its junction with the M3 and the Hamble Bridge. [297374]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Based on population exposure statistics, rounded to the nearest 100 people, it is estimated, using noise mapping results and population location information produced from the 2005 DEFRA Noise Mapping England Major Roads project that:

(a) there are 600 people who are exposed to 75 dB ($L_{A10,18h}$) or above, generated by road traffic noise living in the vicinity of the M3, between Winchester (Junction 9) and its junction with the M27 (Junction 14).

(b) there are 100 people who are exposed to 75 dB ($L_{A10,18h}$) or above, generated by road traffic noise living in the vicinity of the M27, between its junction with the M3 (Junction 4) to the Hamble Bridge (between Junction 8 and Junction 9).

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the number of people resident within the 75-decibel contour of each motorway in England; and if he will assess the effects on such residents of exposure to such levels of noise. [297375]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We do not have the specific data in the format requested. However, the Environmental Noise Directive (END-2002/49/EC) requires member states to produce noise maps. The END requires us to undertake an exposure assessment separately for major roads[1] with over 6 million vehicle passages per year, and road traffic noise sources in agglomerations.[2] Results of the noise mapping and exposure assessment are publicly available at:

http://services.defra.gov.uk/wps/portal/noise

The results of the mapping and exposure assessment are currently being used to support the development of Noise Action Plans, which are required to be produced under the END, drafts of which are currently undergoing public consultation until 4 November 2009, and are available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/noise-action-plan/index.htm

In accordance with the END, exposure assessments have been undertaken for major roads.[1] The results for locations outside agglomerations are summarised in section 4 of the draft Noise Action Plan for Major Roads (outside first round agglomerations), which is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/noise-action-plan/roads.pdf

Table 4.5, page 10, of that document states that there are estimated to be 72,000 people in England, who are exposed to a noise level greater than or equal to 75 dB ($L_{A10,18h}$), generated by road traffic noise from major roads.[1]

Additionally, in accordance with the END, exposure assessments have been undertaken for all mapped road traffic noise sources inside agglomerations. Results for agglomerations are summarised in section 4 of the draft supporting data document for agglomerations which is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/noise-action-plan/agglom-supporting-data.pdf

Tables B1.3 to X1.3 of that document indicates that there are estimated to be 133,000 people in England, who are exposed to a noise level greater than or equal to 75 dB ($L_{A10,18h}$), generated by road traffic noise within agglomerations.

DEFRA does not hold data on the assessment of the effects of exposure to such levels of noise from such sources. However, reports[3] have been published this year, which consider the links between transportation noise and health effects and these noted that further research is required to validate the key findings, and that any future research development in this field should be monitored.

[1] Major roads are as described in Regulation 3(7) of the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended):

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20062238.htm

[2] Agglomerations (First Round) are areas having a population in excess of 250,000 persons and a population density equal to or greater than 500 people per km^2 and which the DEFRA Secretary of State considers to be urbanised.

[3] Environmental Noise and Health in the UK (2009):

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1246433634856

Estimating Dose-Response Relationships Between Noise Exposure and Human Health in the UK:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/igcb/publications/healthreport.htm

Oils: Waste Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of cleaning up used cooking oil which has been inappropriately disposed of. [296797]

Dan Norris: Water and sewerage companies deal with some 200,000 blockages in the public sewers every year, of which up to 75 per cent. are estimated to be caused by fat, oil and grease. Water UK estimated in 2007 that approximately £15 million is spent annually on reactive blockage clearance by the water and sewerage industry in total, and recovered from their customers through sewerage charges.

Planning Act 2008

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which draft national policy statements under the Planning Act 2008 for which his Department is responsible he expects to publish before March 2010. [296503]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department for Communities and Local Government published an update to the route map for the implementation of the Infrastructure Planning Commission regime, including the timetable for preparation of National Policy Statements, on its website on 14 July. Copies are available in the House Library.

The route map explains that we expect to consult on the waste water National Policy Statement in spring 2010, hazardous waste in summer 2010, and water supply in late 2010.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many licences were issued under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [R] [296359]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Policy on wildlife management issues is a devolved matter, therefore this answer relates to England only.

Natural England has issued all licences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 since it was formed in October 2006. This information is not recorded by local authority area but has been recorded by Government office area since mid-2007. This information is set out below for each year since 2007.

Government office area	*2007*	*2008*	*2009 (January-end September)*
East of England	73	90	40
East Midlands	76	118	76
London	4	10	5
North East	15	17	7
North West	38	54	57
South East	130	141	84
South West	253	244	223
West Midlands	93	134	81
Yorkshire and the Humber	42	68	42
Area not recorded	301	0	0
Total	1,025	876	615

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what circumstances a licence under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 may be issued; and if he will make a statement. [R] [296560]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Policy on wildlife management issues is a devolved matter, therefore this answer relates to England only.

The purposes for which a licence can be issued are set out in the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. All applications are determined on a case-by-case basis and would normally be expected to meet the following criteria:

> There is a genuine problem to resolve or there is a need to satisfy for which a licensing purpose is applicable;
>
> There are no satisfactory alternatives;
>
> The licensed action will contribute to resolving the problem or meeting the need;
>
> The action to be licensed is proportionate to the scale of the problem or need, and;
>
> The licensed action will not have an adverse effect on the favourable conservation status of any habitat type or species within its natural range.

In addition all licence applications are subject to a disease risk assessment.

The Government's policy remains that licences will not be issued for culling badgers to prevent the spread of bovine TB in England—we remain open to revisiting this policy in exceptional circumstances or if new scientific evidence becomes available.

Recycling: Metals

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on local metal recycling capacity of metal recycling operators having to demonstrate relevant planning permission to obtain an environmental permit from the Environment Agency. [R] [296354]

Dan Norris: No such assessment has been made. However, we are working with officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Environment Agency to assess how to reduce the impact on existing exempt waste management sites which would, in future, be required to obtain a permit and, therefore, would need to demonstrate planning consent.

Recycling: Plastics

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department provided for research into the recycling of plastics in each year from 2004-05 to date. [295077]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's Waste and Resources Evidence Programme (WREP) first commissioned research projects in the summer of 2005. Since then, funding for research into the recycling of plastics has been as follows:

	£
2005-06	239,160
2006-07	218,436
2007-08	12,000

Rural Land Register

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department is making on its update of the Rural Land Register. [295428]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In updating the Rural Land Register the Rural Payments Agency has sent map packs to some 97,000 or 85 per cent. of farmers in England with the remainder being sent over the next few weeks.

Response rates from farmers are in line with expectations and more than 55,000 farmers have to date either confirmed acceptance or made changes.

RPA is encouraging farmers to reply as soon as possible and ideally within a 28 day timescale. To this end, the agency is running seminars and is attending more than 90 locations at auction markets in order to supply face-to-face advice and support.

Water Charges

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of trends in the number of disconnections by water companies in the last 20 years; and if he will encourage water companies to establish charitable trusts or hardship funds. [297337]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following tables provide details of the numbers of disconnections by water companies in the last 20 years.

A prohibition on the disconnection of domestic premises for non-payment of bills was introduced on 1 July 1999; therefore figures for household disconnections are only given from 1 April 1989 to 30 June 1999. Figures do not include those premises disconnected for reasons such as health and safety, or leakage and repair.

On average, around five and a half thousand non-household properties are disconnected each year; however the figures show no discernible trends.

	Non-household	*Household*
2007-08	7,133	n/a
2006-07	6,619	n/a
2005-06	11,311	n/a
2004-05	13,211	n/a
2003-04	14,404	n/a
2002-03	8,644	n/a
2001-02	5,286	n/a
2000-01	4,311	n/a
1999-2000	3,569	1,27
1998-99	1,748	1,129
1997-98	1,774	1,907
1996-97	1,543	3,148
1995-96	1,996	5,826
1994-95	2,785	10,047
1993-94	2,636	12,452
1992-93	3,099	18,636
1991-92	[1]—	21,282
1990-91	[1]—	7,673
1989-90	[1]—	8,426

[1] Non-household figures for 1989-90 to 1991-92 were not obtainable.

Most companies offer some form of charitable trust or restart scheme. These are advertised in various ways and frequently involve referrals from advice agencies. Ofwat supports this form of assistance as part of an overall package of debt prevention and management. Feedback from the water companies suggests that most customers benefiting from such schemes maintain regular payment habits.

Ofwat offers guidance to companies on charitable trusts. The guidance specifies that where a charitable trust or a restart scheme is in place, companies should, where appropriate, tell customers about them or refer customers to a relevant contact. Companies which do not have such schemes should consider the value of establishing them independently or jointly with other companies or utilities.

Water Charges: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average percentage change in domestic water bills has been in each local authority area in the East of England since May 1997. [295949]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table sets out the average water bill and the percentage change for each year since 1 April 1997 for all the water companies that provide a service in the East of England. Ofwat does not hold information of the average water bill broken down by local authority area.

	Average water only bill (£)	*Percentage change on previous year (2009-10 prices)*
Anglian Water		
1997-98	175.21	-4.3
1998-99	167.94	-4.2
1999-2000	159.45	-5.1
2000-01	140.15	-12.1
2001-02	140.73	0.4
2002-03	136.64	-2.9
2003-04	139.51	2.1
2004-05	140.09	0.4
2005-06	154.55	10.3
2006-07	162.13	4.9

	Average water only bill (£)	Percentage change on previous year (2009-10 prices)
2007-08	170.27	5.0
2008-09	171.60	0.8
2009-10	173.85	1.4
Essex and Suffolk Water		
1997-98	163.67	0.9
1998-99	137.95	-15.7
1999-2000	157.27	14.0
2000-01	138.19	-12.1
2001-02	138.05	-0.1
2002-03	138.19	0.1
2003-04	138.48	0.2
2004-05	152.11	9.8
2005-06	160.58	5.6
2006-07	164.49	2.4
2007-08	169.66	3.1
2008-09	169.30	-0.2
2009-10	168.17	-0.7
Cambridge Water		
1997-98	145.12	-2.1
1998-99	138.23	-4.7
1999-2000	124.29	-10.1
2000-01	115.89	-6.8
2001-02	116.19	0.3
2002-03	112.79	-2.9
2003-04	110.03	-2.5
2004-05	108.54	-1.4
2005-06	120.67	11.2
2006-07	119.57	-0.9
2007-08	122.57	2.5
2008-09	116.03	-5.3
2009-10	115.96	-0.1
Tendring Hundred		
1997-98	201.50	-4.2
1998-99	198.11	-1.7
1999-2000	191.83	-3.2
2000-01	169.98	-11.4
2001-02	174.11	2.4
2002-03	178.44	2.5
2003-04	185.71	4.1
2004-05	189.43	2.0
2005-06	189.83	0.2
2006-07	182.51	-3.9
2007-08	171.59	-6.0
2008-09	178.42	4.0
2009-10	175.92	-1.4
Three Valleys (including North Surrey Water)		
1997-98	156.31	1.9
1998-99	157.91	1.0
1999-2000	160.90	1.9
2000-01	136.37	-15.2
2001-02	136.83	0.3
2002-03	137.92	0.8
2003-04	138.18	0.2
2004-05	141.13	2.1
2005-06	158.33	12.2
2006-07	156.92	-0.9
2007-08	159.52	1.7
2008-09	165.63	3.8
2009-10	165.84	0.1

Notes:

1. Figures for 2008-09 are provisional.
2. Figures for 2009-10 are forecast.
3. Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

HOME DEPARTMENT

62 South Eaton Place

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many months' empty property council tax has been paid on 62 South Eaton Place; and how much has been paid in total since the property became vacant. [293207]

Mr. Woolas: A total of £2,263 empty property tax has been paid for 62 South Eaton Place since April 2007. The total council tax paid is £3,534 since the property became vacant in March 2006.

Asylum

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to process an application for asylum. [295465]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* In December we met our targets to conclude 60 per cent. of new asylum cases within six months. That means not only that decisions were taken early but that in a significant proportion of refusals, removal from the UK was affected within six months of application.

In 1997 it took on average 22 months merely to reach an initial decision. We can only speculate on how much longer than that it was taking to remove those who were refused at that time.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of applications for refugee status made over *(a)* 10 and *(b)* five years ago are still waiting to be resolved by the UK Border Agency. [296408]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not reported on by the case resolution directorate and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files. However, the UK Border Agency has made good progress in concluding the estimated 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records in the asylum backlog. The total conclusions now stand at over 220,000 cases concluded to end of September 2009 as reported by Lin Homer to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 October 2009.

Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1531W and the answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 521-2W, on closed circuit television, which of the recommendations contained in the strategy are *(a)* proposed to be implemented and *(b)* subject to further review. [296660]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As indicated in my earlier reply to the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1351W, progress continues to be made on implementing the National CCTV Strategy and the outcome of the review of the recommendations will be announced in due course.

Community Policing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated for the Basic Command Unit Fund in each year since its introduction; and how much has been allocated for 2009-10. [296360]

Mr. Hanson: The Basic Command Unit Fund was implemented in 2003-04. From 2003-04 to 2007-08 inclusive the annual allocation of the fund amounted to £50 million and to £40 million in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Community Policing: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency. [296109]

Mr. Hanson: Neighbourhood policing is central to providing a police service that is responsive to local crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) concerns. Since 2002 we have invested over £1 billion to ensure that there is now a Neighbourhood Policing team in every neighbourhood, including in total more than 13,500 officers and 16,000 PCSOs. In December 2008, we introduced the Policing Pledge, which outlines commitments that the police service have made to the public, including minimum response times, holding monthly meetings to understand local concerns and providing regular updates on action taken to deal with those concerns.

The latest British Crime Survey (BCS) figures released in October 2009 show an improving trend that, nationally, 50 per cent. of the public now agree that the antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter locally are being dealt with. In October 2009, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary published a report on the progress of all forces in delivering the pledge. The report graded Staffordshire police as "fair".

It is for individual police forces and authorities to ensure the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the single top-down target that antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter locally are being dealt with.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has inspected every force in England and Wales to assess their capabilities in delivering Neighbourhood Policing and Developing Citizen Focus. HMIC's assessment in September 2008 was that all forces, including Staffordshire police, had met this standard.

Community Safety Fund

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Community Safety Fund to be fully implemented; what the fund's budget for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 is; and if he will make a statement. [296403]

Mr. Hanson: The Community Safety Fund (CSF) was dependent on the introduction of elected crime and policing representatives on to police authorities. The CSF would have superseded the Basic Command Unit (BCU) Fund. The subsequent decision not to introduce crime and policing representatives meant the Community Safety Fund was not established. The BCU Fund remains in place.

Crime Prevention: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire have attended the community crime fighters one day training course; and how many are expected to have done so by the end of 2009. [296107]

Mr. Hanson: The community crime fighters scheme is a training programme covering new developments in tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and policing issues. It is aimed at people who are already active in their community and will help them to be aware of the services they should expect for their communities—for example the new national policing pledge, as well as what they can do if they see problems.

Over 3000 people have so far attended these events. 3,600 people will be trained by the end of 2009.

Analysis of the postcodes of people attending shows no one from the Tamworth constituency (B79) has attended the training to date.

The total of trained community crime fighters from across Staffordshire is 34. This breaks down into, five people have attended from Stafford (ST17), one person from Newcastle-under-Lyme (ST5), two from Cannock (WS11 and 12) and 26 from Stoke on Trent (ST1-4).

Attendance has mainly been from activists living in one of the 60 neighbourhood crime and justice pioneer areas. These are areas with high crime and high deprivation levels who are working closely with the Home Office. Stoke on Trent is a pioneer area.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many flights within Great Britain officials of his Department took in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [296556]

Mr. Woolas: During 2008-09 the Home Office spent £1.7 million on flights within Great Britain. The Department's spend on all travel in 2008-09, not including expenditure incurred by its agencies, was £14.6 million. The number of flights cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

The requested information for the Criminal Records Bureau cannot be identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

All travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and any other guidance as applicable contained within Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT projects are being procured by his Department; and what stage of procurement each project has reached. [296658]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department has one IT project, the UK Border Agency's Rostering and Annualised Hours project, currently under active procurement. This is at the stage of invitation of tenders.

Detention Centres: Finance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the running cost of each immigration removal centre was in 2008-09. [295630]

Mr. Woolas: The operating costs for the immigration removal estate are commercially confidential. Disclosure will prejudice the commercial interests of the UK Border Agency and its operators.

Domestic Violence: Arrests

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets police forces have for arrests following reports of domestic violence. [296337]

Mr. Hanson: No national targets are set for police forces on arrest rates following reports of domestic violence. Domestic violence remains a serious crime.

All police forces have measures in place to ensure that officers are aware of domestic violence and have the knowledge and skills to deal with it effectively. In 2004 the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) issued guidance on investigating domestic violence to all police forces and rolled out training on the guidance for all officers including compulsory sessions for all probationer police officers.

Drugs: Death

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths of persons aged *(a)* below 16, *(b)* 16, 17 and 18, *(c)* 19 to 25 and *(d)* over 25 years of age were attributed to the use of illegal drugs in the most recent year for which figures are available. [295922]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary question asking how many deaths of persons aged *(a)* below 16, *(b)* 16, 17 and 18, *(c)* 19 to 25 and *(d)* over 25 years of age were attributed to the use of illegal drugs in the most recent year for which figures are available. (295922)

Drugs classified under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) are termed 'controlled substances', and unlawful possession of a controlled substance is illegal, as is possession with intent to supply. Lawful possession of a controlled substance would include when the drug was in the possession of a person it had been prescribed to. It is not possible to ascertain from information collected at death certification whether a drug was obtained lawfully or not.

The table attached provides the number of drug misuse deaths of persons aged *(a)* below 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 25 and *(d)* over 25 years of age, in England and Wales, for 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Numbers of deaths related to drug misuse[1] by age group, England and Wales[2] 2008[3]

Age group	*Number*
Less than 16	9
16-18	25
19-25	206
Over 25	1,498

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in Box 1 below) and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales includes non-residents

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in 2008.

Box 1

Description	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Entry Clearances

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the clearance process for applications for entry to the UK in cases where the entry clearance officers are not based in the countries from which the application has been submitted; and if he will make a statement. [295957]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* The UK Border Agency will deploy its resources where it is most efficient and effective to do so, also taking account of security considerations. Although the decision on a visa application may be made in another location, applicants continue to submit their applications to, and collect their visas from the visa application centre in their country of residence, or the visa application centre designated to handle applications from applicants of their nationality. The registration part of the process can, in many cases, be separated from the decision part, making full use of modern communications systems and our partnerships with VFS Global and CSC Wordbridge.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets apply to the British consulate in Islamabad on timescales for replying to letters from hon. Members on visa applications. [293612]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* No targets apply to the visa section in Islamabad or elsewhere for replying to correspondence from MPs on visa matters as our policy is to request MPs address such correspondence to the UK Border Agency's Visa Services Directorate in London.

Entry Clearances: Russia

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons charges for telephone calls to his Department's visa application centre based in Russia are charged at different rates depending on whether the call is made in English or Russian. [296265]

Mr. Woolas: All callers to the UK Border Agency's Call Centre in Russia are charged at the same rate, irrespective of what language they use or where they call from within Russia. Callers are charged at 75 roubles per minute, with a minimum charge of 150 roubles per call; the charge includes VAT. Because there are no premium lines in Russia, the caller is charged through an invoice which the Call Centre company raises, taking the information from the caller at the beginning of the conversation.

There is one exception to this. If the caller is phoning from outside Russia, there is no infrastructure to bill them for the call—the cost of the call would need to be transferred from outside Russia, which is not legally possible. This means that calls made from outside Russia are not currently charged for.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the running costs of each forensic science centre were in each of the last five years. [295991]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The running costs of each of the laboratories over the last five years are:

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Chepstow	7.3	8.5	8.5	7.6	7.8
Chorley	9.2	10.4	11.1	9.9	10.1
Huntingdon	10.3	11.1	12.0	10.8	10.8
Wetherby	9.6	10.6	12.5	11.3	11.9
Birmingham Trident Court	11.3	11.3	11.0	9.6	9.4
Birmingham Priory	8.3	9.3	10.8	10.2	9.6
London	31.2	32.2	33.3	28.9	28.0

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions have taken place between officials of his Department, the Forensic Science Service (FSS) and the private sector on private sector involvement in the FSS in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England and Wales since July 2009. [296913]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No discussions have taken place between officials, the Forensic Science Service and the private sector about private sector involvement in the FSS in the North West or England and Wales since July 2009.

Illegal Immigrants: EC Law

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department *(a)* has taken to reduce the length of time immigrants spend in administrative detention and *(b)* plans to take to implement the EU Returns Directive. [295628]

Mr. Woolas: The decision on whether to detain or not is made very carefully on a case by case basis. While the UK Border Agency always aims to detain immigration offenders for the shortest period of time possible, the likely duration of detention is dependent on a range of factors, such as the relative difficulty of obtaining the appropriate travel document with which a person's removal can be effected, or where there is reason to believe that the person will fail to comply with the conditions attached to a grant of temporary admission or release.

As an alternative to detention, the introduction of better contact management through the use of physical reporting at reporting centres and police stations together with the use of electronic monitoring (tagging and voice recognition) has allowed the UK Border Agency to maintain contact with individuals at all stages of the asylum process and with those who have breached immigration law.

The UK has not participated in and has no plans to implement the EU Returns Directive 2008/115/EC. We agree that a collective approach to removal can have advantages. However, we are not persuaded that this Directive delivers the strong returns regime that is required for dealing with irregular migration. Our current practices on the return of illegal third country nationals are broadly in line with the terms of the Directive, but we prefer to formulate our own policy, in line with our stated position on retaining control over conditions of entry and stay.

Immigration

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications the UK Border Agency has granted for indefinite leave to remain to individuals because they are dependants of EU nationals who are resident in the UK in the last three years; [296406]

(2) how many applications the UK Border Agency has granted for indefinite leave to remain to individuals because they are living with or related to EU nationals who are resident in the UK in the last three years. [296407]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not available as the UK Border Agency's case information database records all family members of European Economic Area nationals who apply for permanent residence in one category (EEA4).

National Security

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the potential *(a)* risk to and *(b)* effect on critical infrastructure of an electromagnetic pulse caused by a (i) nuclear and (ii) non-nuclear device. [289834]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics. It also outlines the new governance structures and work streams which will build on existing work to take forward the Government's plan for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities, companies and banks CPNI also runs a CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks. In addition, CESG, provides government departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

It would not be in the interests of national security to provide information about specific protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse attack.

Neighbourhood Policing: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been made available for neighbourhood policing in *(a)* Birmingham, Northfield constituency and *(b)* Birmingham in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [296268]

Mr. Hanson: Neighbourhood policing is central to providing a police service that is responsive to local crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) concerns. Since 2002, we have invested heavily to ensure that there is now a neighbourhood policing team in every neighbourhood, including in total more than 13,500 officers and 16,000 Police Community Support Officers. The latest British crime survey (BCS) figures released in October 2009 show an improving trend, that, nationally, 50 per cent. of the public now agree that the antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter locally are being dealt with.

Funding is made available to police authorities, and it is for each police authority and each police force to allocate resources within the local force area. We provided £15.17 million to West Midlands police authority in 2008-09. The 2009-10 funding is £15.58 million, an increase of 2.7 per cent.

Offences Against Children: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the blocking of websites identified as containing illegal images of child pornography; and if he will make a statement. [296655]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government regularly receives representations relating to blocking, from different sections of society. The Government discusses issues relating to child protection, including blocking of websites containing illegal images, with a wide range of stakeholders.

The Government are clear that the use of blocking to prevent access to such images is something that internet service providers should do, and the Government have been very pleased with the response from the internet industry. The internet industry, and the Internet Watch Foundation which they support, have worked closely with law enforcement to tackle websites hosted in the UK.

This has led to less than 1 per cent. of the total number of such sites being hosted in the UK.

Ofcom has recently published figures showing that 98.6 per cent. of consumer broadband lines are now covered by blocking based on the IWF list. It remains the Government's hope that the target of 100 per cent. of consumer-facing ISPs operating a blocking list will be achieved on a voluntary basis. However, the Government do not rule out legislation at some point in the future if it is not, and will keep progress on the target under review.

Police Community Support Officers: Manpower

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers have been recruited in *(a)* Gwent and *(b)* Newport East constituency since 2003. [295930]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the following table. Data are not collected centrally at constituency level.

Numbers of police community officers (FTE[1]) recruited in Gwent, 2002-03 to 2008-09[2,3]

	Gwent
2002-03	30
2003-04	26
2004-05	58
2005-06	13
2006-07	44
2007-08	47
2008-09	15

[1] Full time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[3] Recruits include those officers joining as Police Staff Standard Direct Recruits and those who were previously Special Constables. This excludes police community support officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

Police: Bank Services

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of services lost by each police authority as a result of the collapse of Icelandic banks in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [296402]

Mr. Hanson: It is for the police authority and chief constable to decide on how best to allocate resources to meet local needs.

I am advised that none of the police authorities that held investments with the Icelandic banks face cash flow pressures as a consequence of those investments.

Police: Equal Opportunities

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ethnic groups are represented in the population of each police force area in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [296397]

Mr. Hanson: Police personnel data are collected centrally on the following ethnic groups:

White;

Mixed;

Black or Black British;

Asian or Asian British;

Chinese or Other; and

Not Stated

at national and police force area level. Further breakdowns are not collected centrally.

Data are not collected for Tees Valley or at constituency level. The available data as at 31 March 2009 are provided in the following table.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer strength by ethnicity in England[1] and Cleveland, as at 31 March 2009[2]

	Full-time equivalent	
Ethnicity	*England*	*Cleveland*
White	128,671	1,727
Mixed	1,641	5
Black or Black British	1,416	1
Asian or Asian British	2,448	19
Other Ethnic Group	677	3
Not Stated	1,548	0
Total	136,402	1,756

[1] The figures shown are for the 43 police forces of England and Wales.

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ethnic minority police officers were employed in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each of the last 10 years. [296398]

Mr. Hanson: Data are not collected for Tees Valley or at constituency level. The available data are provided in the following table.

Minority ethnic officer strength in England[1] and Cleveland, as at 31 March, 2000 to 2009[2, 3]

		Full-time equivalent[4]
	Cleveland	*England[1]*
2000	17	2,667
2001	18	2,882
2002	19	3,291
2003	23	3,787
2004	28	4,499
2005	27	4,886
2006	31	5,145
2007	26	5,420
2008	25	5,693
2009	29	6,183

[1] This is the total figure for the 39 police forces in England.

[2] Figures are as the same as in the published "Race Equality—The Home Secretary's Employment Targets" reports.

[3] Figures prior to 2003 are not directly comparable with figures from 2003 onwards, since figures prior to 2003 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave, whereas figures from 2003 onwards include them.

[4] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police: Helicopters

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many helicopters are available for use by each police force. [297183]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows helicopters that are currently available for use by each police force in England and Wales.

As can be seen from the table a number of police forces work in formal, shared-cost, consortia to provide an air support service across all contributing police forces.

Force	*Consortium name*	*Forces*	*Helicopters*
Avon and Somerset	Western Counties	[1]2	[1]1
Gloucestershire	Western Counties	└	└
Cambridgeshire	East Anglia	[1]3	[1]3
Essex	East Anglia	└	└
Suffolk	East Anglia	└	└

Force	*Consortium name*	*Forces*	*Helicopters*
Cleveland	—	—	1
Derbyshire	North Midlands	[1]2	[1]1
Nottinghamshire	North Midlands	[1]—	[1]—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	1
Dorset	—	—	1
Dyfed Powys	—	—	1
GMP	—	—	1
Humberside	—	—	1
Lancashire	—	—	1
Leicestershire	East Midlands	[1]3	[1]1
Northamptonshire	East Midlands	[1]—	[1]—
Warwickshire	East Midlands	[1]—	[1]—
Merseyside	—	—	1
Metropolitan/City of London Police	—	2	3
Norfolk	—	—	1
Northumbria	North East	[1]2	[1]1
Durham	North East	[1]—	[1]—
North Wales	—	—	1
South Wales	South and East Wales	[1]2	[1]1
Gwent	South and East Wales	[1]—	[1]—
South Yorkshire	—	—	1
Surrey	—	—	1
Sussex	—	—	1
Thames Valley	Chiltern	[1]3	[1]2
Bedfordshire	Chiltern	[1]—	[1]—
Hertfordshire	Chiltern	[1]—	[1]—
West Mercia	Central Counties	[1]2	[1]1
Staffordshire	Central Counties	[1]—	[1]—
West Midlands	—	—	1
West Yorkshire	—	—	1
Wiltshire	—	—	1

[1] The superscripts represent a brace.

Police: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many chief constables received bonus payments for meeting his Department's targets in each year since 1997; how much was paid in such bonus payments in each of those years; and what plans he has for the future of the bonus system. [296424]

Mr. Hanson: Decisions on chief officer bonus payments are a matter for the police authority, in line with criteria agreed by the Police Negotiating Board in 2005 and set out in PNB Circular 2005/3. I have arranged for a copy of this Circular to be placed in the House Library. Data on the bonuses paid to chief constables are not held centrally. Any proposal for changes to the nationally agreed chief officer bonus arrangements would need to be considered by the Police Negotiating Board.

Police: Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whom police authorities are required to consult before they appoint a chief constable; what regulations govern such appointments; and if he will make a statement. [296637]

Mr. Hanson: Police authorities appoint chief constables subject to the approval of the Home Secretary and to police regulations, and involving the regional HM Inspector of Constabulary. Other consultation, consistent with good recruitment practice, is a matter for the police authority.

Regulation 11 of the Police Regulations 2003, as amended by the Police (Amendment) Regulations 2006, covers the appointment of senior officers.

Police: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers there were in each year since 1997 and *(b)* police community safety officers there have been in each year since 2002 in Tamworth constituency. [296110]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the following table.

Police personnel statistics are not collected centrally at constituency level, but have been collected at Basic Command Unit level from April 2002.

Police officers and PCSOs in Trent Valley Basic Command Unit, as at 31 March[1,2,3]

	Police officers	PCSOs
2009	405	63
2008	410	47
2007	417	50
2006	412	[1]15
2005	429	[1]15
2004	392	[2]—

[1] PCSO figures are as at 30 June.

[2] Not available.

Notes:

1. Data at Basic Command Unit level have been provided, since data are not collected centrally at constituency level.
2. These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Data on police strength by police Basic Command Unit was collected centrally for the first time for the period beginning April 2002. However, in 2003 Staffordshire were unable to provide data at BCU level. Therefore, data are not available prior to 31 March 2004.

Radicalism: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what budget his Department has allocated to tackle the spread of extremism on the web. [292787]

Mr. Hanson: A wide range of work is being undertaken to prevent the spread of extremism including hate crime and terrorism on the web. Work is also being undertaken by the police. It is not possible to give comprehensive figures for the resources allocated to this.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what organisations his Department is working with to prevent the spread of extremism on the web; and if he will make a statement. [292788]

Mr. Hanson: The strategy to tackle the use of the internet by terrorists and violent extremists is delivered by a wide range of organisations, including a number of Government Departments and agencies, the police, and, crucially, community activists. The internet is a tool which terrorists and violent extremists may seek to use across the range of their activities. We are determined to work with all these partners to make the internet a more hostile environment for them.

Furthermore, in September 2009 the Government launched their Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan. This sets out work to improve responses to all types of hate crime, including incitement to hatred that occurs on the internet. It includes actions to update police guidance and structures to ensure effective, robust responses to internet hate crime.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which industry partners he has had discussions on preventing the spread of extremism on the web. [292789]

Mr. Hanson: A range of industry representatives attended a ministerial meeting in February 2008 to discuss ways in which the Home Department might work together with industry partners to tackle online radicalisation. The focus of efforts since has been informed by that discussion, reflecting companies' concerns and priorities and Government's desire to take a proportionate and evidence-based approach. Officials continue to hold constructive discussions with industry to develop existing work and explore other options. It would not be appropriate to name the companies involved in these voluntary discussions.

Security: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to ensure the security of foreign dignitaries attending the London 2012 Olympics. [296228]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* We adhere to our international legal obligations to implement appropriate security measures for all visits by foreign dignitaries to ensure their safety and dignity are not compromised. A security framework specifically for the Olympic and Paralympics games 2012 is being developed which builds on existing UK protective security measures, but we do not discuss the details of protection arrangements for public figures as to do so may compromise their safety.

UK Police Portal Team

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed in the UK Police Portal Team; and what the budget for the team has been in each year since its inception. [296361]

Mr. Hanson: The Police Portal Service ceased on 31 March 2007, consequently the UK Police Portal Team no longer exists. The total cost of the team prior to its disbandment was approximately £640,000 per annum.

HEALTH

Cancer: Databases

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other support has been provided to the National Cancer Intelligence Network in each of the last three financial years. [296788]

Ann Keen: Funding for the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN), which was launched in June 2008, is included in the financial bundle allocated by the Department to NHS London. In 2008-09, NHS London set a budget of £320,000 for services performed by the NCIN. This budget has increased to £2.7 million for 2009-10.

The NCIN also receives funding for one targeted post from Cancer Research UK, and for another from the Medical Research Council, Oncore UK, National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) and Macmillan Cancer Research. The NCRN also co-funds a further post with the NCIN.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* public funding and *(b)* other support has been provided to each of the cancer registries in each of the last three financial years. [296789]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the total amount of funding allocated by the Department to the Regional Directors for Public Health for cancer registry commitments for the last three financial years, 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Allocations to Regional Directors for Public Health for cancer registry commitments 2007-08 to 2009-10

£

Cancer registry	*2007-08 allocation*	*2008-09 allocation*	*2009-10 allocation*
Eastern Cancer Registry and Information Centre	1,024,000	1,126,971	1,235,000
North West Cancer Intelligence Service	1,467,000	1,461,501	1,455,000
Northern and Yorkshire Cancer Registry and Information Service	1,450,000	1,467,331	1,485,000
Oxford Cancer Intelligence Unit	604,000	613,068	622,000
South West Cancer Intelligence Service	1,440,000	1,490,330	1,532,000
Thames Registry	2,446,000	2,517,930	2,591,000
Trent Registry	959,000	1,024,372	1,093,000
West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit	1,221,000	1,205,187	1,188,000
Total	10,620,000	10,906,740	11,201,000

Source:
Department of Health internal financial management data.

Cancer: Health Services

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust spent per head on treating each type of cancer in each of the last five years; and how much on average each primary care trust spent on such treatment in each such year. [296223]

Ann Keen: A table showing Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust's estimated expenditure per head on cancer and tumours for the last five available years, 2003-04 to 2007-08, as well as the estimated national average expenditure per head for the same years, has been placed in the Library. This table also provides details of the net expenditure on cancer and tumours at sub-category level for 2006-07 (the first year that this data were collected at sub-category level for a number of tumour types) and 2007-08.

Tables showing the net expenditure on cancer and tumours at sub-category level for 2006-07 and 2007-08 by each primary care trust (PCT) have also been placed in the Library. These tables show expenditure on each PCT's own local population.

The figures in these tables include primary prescribing but exclude General Medical Services and Personal Medical Services expenditure and any prevention-related expenditure, such as screening.

Care Quality Commission: Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure the revision of the Care Quality Commission's website to make it more user-friendly. [296988]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) but they inform us that overall feedback about their website is positive, as measured through responses from individual users, via online surveys and through specific testing with people—public and professionals—who use its pages. Around 460,000 unique visitors used the site during Quarter 2 of 2009, spending more than eight minutes on average per visit. The site offers content in a range of accessible formats, including easy read, large print, British Sign Language and audio.

CQC believes there is always scope to improve the way it offers information about the quality of care services. With this in mind, improvements are planned to the site later this year. A major investment is planned for next year to make the most of the opportunity posed by the new registration system for health and adult social care providers.

We understand CQC have contacted the hon. Member for Eddisbury's office to seek specific feedback.

Childbirth

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of women giving birth in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England did so at home in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [291712]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what percentage of women giving birth in (a) the Vale of York, (b) North Yorkshire and (c) England did so at home in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. (291712)

The table attached provides the percentage of maternities that took place at home in (a) Vale of York parliamentary constituency, (b) North Yorkshire county, and (c) England for the years 2005 to 2008.

Table 1: Percentage of maternities that took place at home, Vale of York parliamentary constituency, North Yorkshire county and England[1], 2005 to 2008[2]

Area	2005	2006	2007	Percentage 2008
Vale of York	2	2	2	3
North Yorkshire	2	2	2	2
England	3	3	3	3

[1] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[2] Figures are based on maternities in a given calendar year.

Childbirth: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women gave birth at *(a)* Barnet Hospital, *(b)* the Royal Free Hospital, *(c)* Northwick Park Hospital and *(d)* Chase Farm Hospital in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [296587]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary question asking how many women gave birth at (a) Barnet Hospital, (b) the Royal Free Hospital, (c) Northwick Park Hospital and (d) Chase Farm Hospital in each of the last three years. (296587)

Figures for maternities by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. The table below shows the number of maternities in 2006, 2007 and 2008 for the four hospitals requested, according to registration data. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

Maternities[1] occurring in selected hospitals, 2006 to 2008

Hospital	2006	2007	2008
Barnet Hospital (including Victoria Ward)	3,188	3,246	3,097
Royal Free Hospital	3,209	3,305	3,335
Northwick Park Hospital	4,272	4,540	4,768
Chase Farm Hospital	2,959	3,015	3,109

[1] A maternity is a confinement resulting in the birth of one or more live-born or stillborn children.

Community Nurses

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average case load for district nurses *(a)* in each primary care trust area and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [296009]

Ann Keen: Caseloads for district nurses are not determined centrally as this is an issue for commissioners and local managers who understand prevailing conditions and can take account of specific factors.

Community Nurses: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many family nurse partnerships are in place in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency. [295945]

Ann Keen: There is one family nurse partnership in place in Derbyshire. This is the Derby City Family Nurse Partnership, which has been in place since April 2007.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* staff of his Department and *(b)* specialist commissioned consultants worked in support of the Dental Access Programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [296219]

Ann Keen: Precise headcount figures are not available for either departmental staff or specialist commissioned consultants in regard to the Dental Access Programme. This is because the staff and some of the consultants support a range of activities in which the Dental Access Programme is only one element.

Dental Services: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of dentists in each county in the East of England undertake NHS work. [296168]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of practicing dentists who undertake only private practice is not collected centrally.

The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the year ending 31 March 2009 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09" report. This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Information is provided for England and by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT), but is not available by county.

For the year ending 31 March 2009, the numbers of dentists with NHS activity within the East of England SHA were as follows:

	Number
East of England SHA	2,472
Bedfordshire PCT	224
Cambridgeshire PCT	259
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	338
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	105
Luton PCT	80
Mid Essex PCT	144
Norfolk PCT	310
North East Essex PCT	123
Peterborough PCT	84
South East Essex PCT	136
South West Essex PCT	177
Suffolk PCT	265
West Essex PCT	122
West Hertfordshire PCT	330

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

These published figures do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of dentists in each county in the East of England were offering treatment to new NHS patients at the latest date for which information is available. [296171]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of dentists accepting new national health service patients at any point in time is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for monitoring the availability of primary dental care services and for maintaining information for local helplines and patient information services on where new patients may obtain NHS services.

Dental Services: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been allocated to support the immediate priorities identified in the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England in each category of funding; and if he will make a statement; [296217]

(2) when his Department expects to allocate budgets in support of the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England for 2010-11. [296218]

Ann Keen: Much of the work on developing and implementing the recommendations of the Independent Review of National Health Service dental services will be carried out by departmental staff within existing resources at no additional cost to the Department. In addition, we are currently tendering for specialist consultancy support for the implementation of the recommendations. We estimate this will cost up to £490,000 (excluding VAT) in this financial year (2009-10). Budget plans for 2010-11 to take effect from 1 April 2010 will be informed by this development work, but will also be subject to the ongoing monitoring of progress and requirements through the course of next year.

Departmental Aviation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many flights within Great Britain officials of his Department took in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [296555]

Phil Hope: A total of 1,316 domestic flights within Great Britain were undertaken during 2008-09 at a cost of £239,130.08.

Derbyshire: General Practitioners and Health Centres

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many new GP surgeries have opened in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency since 1997; [295943]

(2) how many one-stop primary care centres there are in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency. [295944]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on numbers of new general practitioner (GP) surgeries opened is not collected centrally.

Data on one-stop primary care centres were not collected by local authority areas but by primary care trusts (PCTs), which were reconfigured in 2006. The number of one-stop primary care centres created under the NHS Plan target for the new Derbyshire PCT is 11. This includes a new GP health centre opened in Ilkeston as part of the Government's policy to have a new GP health centre in every PCT, open from 8 am to 8 pm, 365 days a year, which patients can attend on a walk-in basis or by appointment. Patients can register with the centres if they find this convenient or use the service while remaining registered at their existing practice.

Drugs: Exports

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the extent of the practice of parallel exporting of pharmaceuticals. [297306]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 735W.

Drugs: Misuse

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use were recorded in England in each of the last five years. [296892]

Phil Hope: The information is shown in the following table:

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English national health service commissioned activity in the independent sector, data years 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Finished admission episodes
2004-05	44,367
2005-06	47,854
2006-07	47,886
2007-08	48,583
2008-09	48,970

Note:

These figures include admissions for alcohol-induced mental health conditions.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria the National Drug Treatment Agency uses to make its assessment of whether a person leaving treatment is drug-free; and whether such assessments take account of the use of alcohol. [296664]

Gillian Merron: Data on individuals in structured drug treatment are collected by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) via the national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS).

The NDTMS counts the number of people successfully leaving treatment each year free of their drug of dependency. This figure is made up of two categories:

'Treatment completed free of dependency (no drug use)'; and

'Treatment completed free of dependency (occasional use)'.

'Treatment completed free of dependency (no drug use)' means that in the opinion of the treating clinician, the client is not only free of dependency but is not using any other illicit drugs at all on exiting treatment.

'Treatment completed free of dependency (occasional use)' means that the client is not misusing heroin or crack, but there may be occasional use of other illicit drugs, for example, cannabis which is judged by the clinician neither to be problematic nor to require treatment.

The two categories together give the total number of clients leaving treatment free of dependency, which is one of the ways in which the NTA measures successful treatment outcomes.

Neither category includes alcohol use, as people recorded on the NDTMS are seeking help for a primary drug problem. However, alcohol misuse by primary drug misusers would be addressed during treatment and the NTA would expect that clinicians continue to address alcohol dependence as appropriate if, and when, a client is no longer drug dependent nor monitored through NDTMS. Data on people receiving treatment for primary alcohol misuse are collected by the national alcohol treatment monitoring system for the Department of Health.

Mental Health: Economic Situation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will *(a)* estimate the number of NHS counsellors and *(b)* assess the likely demand for NHS casualty services required to deal with increases in the incidence in mental health problems arising as a result of the economic downturn. [297385]

Phil Hope: The Department has not commissioned research on the impact of the economic downturn on levels of demand for mental health services. However, we recognise that there are links between poor mental health and difficult economic circumstances. Mental health services in England are now better prepared than ever before to provide help for these people.

Since 2001-02, total planned investment in adult mental health services has increased by 50 per cent. (or £2.0 billion), putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. Total planned investment increased from £5.530 billion in 2007-08 to £5.892 billion in 2008-09, a 6.6 per cent. increase in the amount, and 4.0 per cent. in real terms.

We also have 64 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, 71 per cent. more clinical psychologists and 21 per cent. more mental health nurses than we had in 1997, providing better care and support for people with mental health problems. (Full-time equivalent).

Because of the National Service Framework and increased funding, we now have over 740 new community mental health teams offering home treatment, early intervention, or intensive support for people who might otherwise have been admitted to hospital.

We are also investing significantly in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme with annual funding rising to £173 million in the third year (2010-11), to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat 900,000 more people in those three years.

The talking therapy services that are already up and running under the IAPT programme have been very successful, with 73,000 people entering treatment and 1,500 more therapists being employed under the scheme.

In March 2009, a £13 million package of measures was announced to tackle the effects of the economic downturn. Employment is key to good mental health and the £13 million will strengthen the health service's links with employment services at local level, speed up the introduction of IAPT services in the areas most affected by the recession and provide better public access to information online at NHS Choices. The NHS Credit Crunch Stressline has also been established and is taking calls from people whose health is being affected by money worries.

Mental Health: Research

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on each research project relating to personality disorder among offenders in each year since 1999; and what publications resulted from research *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded by his Department. [296528]

Phil Hope: The costs of research in this joint development programme has been shared with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the research programme managed by the MoJ. The total Department of Health contribution to the cost of the many research projects since 2000 is £3,359,000.

Some research is still ongoing and due to deliver in 2010. Most other research projects have resulted in a considerable number of related publications in academic journals. The delivery of the Bradley Review recommendations on personality disorders in offender populations will include full consideration of the results of all this research evidence before presenting a new interdepartmental strategy for personality disorder in October 2010.

Methadone

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of a methadone prescription was in each of the last five years; and what the total cost of methadone prescriptions was in the last five years. [296973]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is shown in the following tables. The British National Formulary lists methadone in three separate sections: as a cough suppressant; as an opioid analgesic; and for the treatment of drug dependence. Data have been provided on the basis of this classification according to the preparation dispensed, not the purpose of the prescription.

Average net ingredient cost per prescription item

£

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Cough suppressant	3.24	4.05	4.17	3.70	3.74
Opioid analgesics	22.95	22.57	21.62	21.21	20.59
Drugs used in substance dependence	8.12	8.67	9.22	11.37	12.35
Average	8.84	9.27	9.68	11.70	12.59

Total net ingredient cost

£000

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Cough suppressant	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.0
Opioid analgesics	2,015.6	1,993.5	1,831.7	1,781.1	1,693.2
Drugs used in substance dependence	13,972.6	16,949.2	20,201.5	27,362.1	32,778.7
Total	15,991.6	18,946.7	22,037.5	29,147.8	34,476.0

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis System

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average duration of a methadone prescription for a problem drug user was in the last five years. [296974]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: These data are not collected centrally.

National clinical guidelines do not specify how long a person should be in treatment and the duration of drug treatment varies markedly according to individual need. Research shows that staying in treatment for at least 12 weeks has a lasting positive benefit in reducing the harm associated with dependence.

We also know that it is usual for drug users to go in and out of treatment several times, often over several years, before becoming drug-free.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1119-20W, on NHS: drugs, what progress has been made in developing proposals for pilot studies to assess the demand for unfunded drugs; against what criteria sites for such pilot studies will be selected; when he expects them to commence; and if he will make a statement. [297192]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The project manager for the piloting work took up post in September 2009, and is in the process of engaging with key experts on the design of the pilots and with possible pilot sites.

Nurses

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses per 100 hospital beds there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Suffolk Hospital and *(c)* Ipswich Hospital in each year since 1999. [296172]

Ann Keen: The nurse to bed ratio has only been recorded electronically since 2001. The following table shows the number of nurses per 100 hospital beds in England, West Suffolk Hospital and Ipswich Hospital from 2001.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing staff in England, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust per 100 "total available beds[1]" as at 30 September each specified year

		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	England	177.6	187.4	198.4	204.0	210.7	213.5	225.6	240.9
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	RGQ	158.3	163.2	167.9	170.1	175.6	170.1	188.5	187.0
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	RGR	121.2	126.7	156.8	149.9	156.3	161.1	188.6	200.4

[1] The 'total available beds' figure is the average daily number of open and staffed beds on wards open overnight in NHS hospitals in England. Figures are submitted annually on form KH03 by each NHS Trust and provide a summary across all hospital sites within the Trust.

Notes:
1. Staff in post figures are as at 30 September. Figures are calculated against headcount.
2. Figures are rounded to one decimal place.

Sources:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
Department of Health KH03.

Osteoporosis: Health Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will extend the length of the Osteoporosis Diagnosis and Prevention Scheme. [297030]

Ann Keen: This is presently being considered as part of negotiations on the 2010-11 general practitioner (GP) contract between NHS Employers and the GPs' Committee of the British Medical Association.

Patients: Human Rights

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, *(b)* Northwick Park Hospital and *(c)* the Royal Free Hospital have made towards fulfilment of their statutory duties in respect of the human rights of their patients; and if he will make a statement. [296599]

Phil Hope: We are advised by the London Strategic Health Authority that Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, North West London Hospitals NHS Trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust have human rights policies in place.

"The NHS Constitution", published in January 2009, has established the principles and values of the national health service in England. A copy has already been placed in the Library. It makes it clear that NHS organisations have a duty to each and every individual that they serve and must respect their human rights.

Pharmacy: Greater London

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report,* column 352W, on pharmacy, what assessment he has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of the use of essential small pharmacy local pharmaceutical services contracts in London and *(b)* the adequacy of support provided to pharmacies in London that fail to reach their prescription item threshold. [296249]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is for primary care trusts to assess what arrangements are required to ensure the proper and sufficient provision of drugs and medicines within their areas and the Department would not, therefore, undertake any such assessment.

Social Workers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [296347]

Phil Hope: The number of whole-time equivalent (WTE) social workers employed directly by social services departments in England and the Tees Valley as at the 30 September each year from 1999 to 2008 is shown in the following table.

Information is collected by councils with social services responsibilities and is not available at constituency level. Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency covers part of Middlesbrough unitary authority and part of Redcar and Cleveland unitary authority. Tees Valley includes the following councils: Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees.

Number of social workers[1] employed directly by social services departments[2] in England and the Tees Valley 1999-2008[3]

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002[4]*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Tees Valley	561.3	590.1	627.7	653.5	647.5	695.0	694.3	719.5	745.9	793.4
of which:										
Darlington	64.6	65.8	74.4	70.4	57.8	79.0	76.0	78.0	85.2	88.5
Hartlepool	106.0	104.5	117.9	114.6	117.9	118.2	104.8	105.0	107.4	107.9
Middlesbrough	139.3	157.5	165.7	196.5	206.5	234.1	242.0	262.6	262.7	249.8
Redcar and Cleveland	121.0	118.0	124.5	126.8	123.1	122.4	120.0	124.3	136.3	140.2
Stockton-on-Tees	130.4	144.3	145.2	—	142.2	141.3	151.5	149.6	155.3	207.0
England	35,822.2	36,922.4	37,795.0	38,825.0	40,420.2	41,141.0	42,365.3	43,891.7	44,769.8	44,790.1

[1] Children's and adult social workers using the definition as used for the performance indicators which formed part of the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF).

[2] The information supplied is the number of social workers employed by social services departments in England and does not include agency staff.

[3] As at 30 September each year.

[4] Information for Stockton-on-Tees in 2002 is not available and so data for 2001 has been used as a proxy to calculate Tees Valley and England figures, this matches the Department of Health publication of this data.

Swine Flu: Pregnancy

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has assessed on the safety of the swine influenza vaccine to pregnant women and unborn children. [296125]

Gillian Merron: It is the role of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use of the European Medicines Agency to review all the available clinical and pre-clinical data for the swine flu vaccines and to assess their safety and immunogenicity.

Both Pandemrix and Celvapan, the swine flu vaccines used in the United Kingdom, have been licensed by the European Commission for use by pregnant women.

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Bullying

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken in response to the allegation of bullying and harassment by NHS East Midlands staff in respect of senior management at United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust. [295397]

Phil Hope: Following public allegations of bullying and harassment against the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA), David Nicholson, national health service chief executive asked an extremely experienced and senior former manager from the NHS to undertake an independent review of these allegations. On 28 October 2009, the Department released the review's findings and David Nicholson's response. They are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Equalityandhumanrights/Bullyingandharassment/index.htm

Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

The independent review found no evidence in the allegations of bullying or harassment of United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust by the East Midlands SHA. The NHS Constitution has set out the right for staff to have healthy and safe working conditions, one which has no place for bullying, harassment or discrimination. The NHS has taken strong steps to eliminate bullying and harassment in the workplace and all NHS employers are expected to have policies and procedures in place to tackle this.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to Question 291712, on the percentage of women giving birth at home, tabled on 9 October 2009. [297541]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Question 291712 has been answered today. I apologise for the delay in replying which was due to an administrative oversight.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she plans to reply to questions *(a)* 291792 and *(b)* 291793, on numbers of live births, tabled on 9 October 2009. [297542]

Angela E. Smith: Questions 291792 and 291793 have been answered today. I apologise for the delay in replying which was due to an administrative oversight.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were diagnosed with *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* other cancers in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997. [296144]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* other cancers in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997 [296144].

The latest available numbers for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the numbers of *(a)* newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer from 1997 to 2006 in (i) Jarrow parliamentary constituency, (ii) South Tyneside local authority district, (iii) North East government office region and (iv) England and Wales.

Table 2 provides the numbers of *(b)* newly diagnosed cases of all cancers from 1997 to 2006 in (i) Jarrow parliamentary constituency, (ii) South Tyneside local authority district, (iii) North East government office region and (iv) England and Wales. Numbers relating to 'all' cancers have been provided because it cannot be definitively stated that a diagnosed case of an 'other' cancer is not in a person also diagnosed with breast cancer.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer;[1] Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority district, north-east Government office region, England and Wales, 1997-2006[2]

Number

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Jarrow	61	42	67	60	54	62	73	59	64	84
South Tyneside	104	94	105	119	102	104	133	117	119	157
North-east	1,567	1,698	1,686	1,710	1,764	1,749	1,969	1,988	1,993	2,025
England and Wales[3]	35,745	36,087	38,021	37,173	37,888	37,910	40,176	40,332	41,089	40,745

[1] Breast cancer coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures for Wales provided by the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit.

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancers;[1] Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority district, north-east Government office region, England and Wales, 1997-2006[2]

Number

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Jarrow	457	440	465	453	446	471	462	452	485	521
South Tyneside	812	838	857	889	828	863	878	892	893	918
North East	12,384	12,922	13,093	13,119	13,483	13,645	13,748	13,605	13,620	13,495
England and Wales[3]	237,074	236,749	244,460	244,836	248,327	246,109	250,735	256,146	258,645	259,459

[1] All cancers coded from C00 to C97 , excluding non melanoma skin cancer C44, according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures for Wales provided by the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit.

Childbirths

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many live births occurred in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [291792]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many live births occurred in (a) the Vale of York, (b) North Yorkshire and (c) England in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. (291792)

The table attached provides the number of live births in (a) Vale of York parliamentary constituency, (b) North Yorkshire county, and (c) England for the years 2005 to 2008.

Table 1: Live births, Vale of York parliamentary constituency, North Yorkshire county and England,[1] 2005 to 2008[2]

Area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Vale of York	1,043	997	1,033	1,048
North Yorkshire	5,700	5,745	5,779	6,197
England	613,028	635,748	655,357	672,809

[1] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[2] Figures are based on births registered in calendar year.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many live births occurred in *(a)* Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, *(b)* Malton Hospital, Malton, *(c)* James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough and *(d)* Scarborough Hospital, Scarborough in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [291793]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the number of live births occurring in (a) Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, (b) Malton Hospital, Malton, (c) James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough and (d) Scarborough Hospital, Scarborough in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. (291793)

Figures for live births by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. The table below shows the number of live births in 2005 to 2008 in the four hospitals requested, according to registration data. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

Live births occurring in selected hospitals, 2005-08

Communal establishment	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Friarage Hospital, Northallerton	1,185	1,285	1,244	1,317
Malton Hospital, Malton	57	48	23	12
James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough	3,659	3,714	3,994	4,048
Scarborough Hospital, Scarborough	1,487	1,508	1,572	1,675

Death: Cancer

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* diagnosed cases and *(b)* deaths from each type of cancer there were in (i) England, (ii) Twickenham constituency and (iii) Richmond and Twickenham primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [296222]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) diagnosed cases and (b) deaths from each type of cancer there were in (i) England, (ii) Twickenham constituency and (iii) Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust in each of the last five years [296222].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006, while the latest figures for deaths are for the year 2008.

Table 1 provides the number of (a) newly diagnosed all cancers and the most common cancers in (i) England, (ii) Twickenham parliamentary constituency and (iii) Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust for each year from 2002 to 2006.

Table 2 provides the number of (b) deaths from all cancers and the most common cancers in (i) England, (ii) Twickenham parliamentary constituency and (iii) Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust for each year from 2004 to 2008.

Table 1. Registration of newly diagnosed cases of cancer[1]: all cancers and top 10 specific cancers, England[2], 2002-06[3]

	England					*Twickenham parliamentary constituency*					*Richmond and Twickenham primary care trust*				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All cancers	230,208	234,434	239,273	241,974	242,184	440	434	391	439	448	748	768	706	711	774
Breast	35,552	37,777	37,936	38,699	38,278	90	82	60	88	71	131	150	104	136	133
Lung	30,492	30,666	31,118	31,505	31,128	62	52	46	45	53	99	94	88	77	89
Colorectal	28,218	28,496	29,430	29,945	30,046	52	47	52	58	66	95	84	93	86	102
Prostate	27,974	28,222	30,539	29,299	30,024	49	51	42	39	53	106	81	80	66	94
Non-Hodgkins lymphoma	7,994	8,341	8,550	8,627	8,768	18	18	15	19	22	34	31	29	29	34
Melanoma of skin	6,661	6,918	7,596	8,102	8,658	10	11	12	14	12	17	22	24	31	25
Bladder	8,485	8,528	8,262	8,565	8,373	12	23	21	17	11	23	35	38	32	20
Pancreas	6,056	6,130	6,392	6,520	6,432	9	14	13	12	11	16	27	21	14	21
Oesophagus	6,162	6,278	6,230	6,455	6,353	11	17	6	10	7	18	25	14	16	11
Stomach	7,370	6,885	6,717	6,543	6,216	11	[4]—	9	16	15	15	7	13	20	26

[1] Cause of cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10); the causes and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in box 1.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

[4] Under three cases.

Table 2. Number of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause of death[1]*: all cancers and top 10 specific cancers, England*[2]*, 2004-08*[3]

	England					Twickenham parliamentary constituency					Richmond and Twickenham primary care trust				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All cancers	126,048	126,246	126,779	127,719	128,802	229	211	256	205	202	386	340	403	350	321
Breast	10,341	10,375	10,302	10,062	10,122	21	27	24	21	22	34	36	45	27	34
Lung	26,399	26,786	27,368	27,656	28,198	35	37	47	42	41	68	63	80	75	64
Colorectal	12,978	12,924	12,868	12,841	13,067	22	27	30	18	22	36	34	43	36	28
Prostate	8,531	8,492	8,506	8,659	8,597	18	17	16	19	17	32	21	24	27	27
Non-Hodgkins lymphoma	3,718	3,732	3,723	3,761	3,722	12	5	7	7	2	21	11	13	9	5
Melanoma of skin	1,480	1,529	1,536	1,710	1,725	2	2	9	4	3	6	7	10	8	5
Bladder	4,066	3,912	4,046	4,125	4,188	11	6	10	5	12	16	15	14	10	15
Pancreas	5,888	6,074	6,183	6,394	6,506	18	10	11	10	6	26	14	19	17	11
Oesophagus	5,894	6,061	6,066	5,953	6,131	11	7	10	13	3	13	13	12	20	8
Stomach	4,694	4,583	4,216	4,255	4,226	4	9	12	3	4	7	12	18	6	6

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in box 1.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: International Classification of Diseases, Tenth revision (ICD-10) codes for all cancers and selected cancers

Group name	*ICD-10 code*
All cancers	C00-C97 excluding C44
Oesophagus	C15
Stomach	C16
Colorectal	C18-C20
Pancreas	C25
Lung	C34
Melanoma of skin	C43
Breast	C50
Prostate	C61
Bladder	C67
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	C82-C85

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will consider the merits of securing accreditation of her Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if she will make a statement. [295714]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector is responsible for running an inquiry line whose primary purpose is to support the variety of other information sources (publications, website) available to members of the public on Government's support for the Third Sector. Whilst I commend the Helplines Association's Quality Standard, the Office of the Third Sector inquiry line falls outside the criteria for such a standard.

Electronic Warfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps she has taken to reduce the number of cyber attacks on Government departments in 2009. [295974]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government are working closely with industry and continue to place a high priority on defending departmental networks from attack.

The Office for Cyber Security was established on 1 September 2009. Its purpose is to provide strategic leadership and coherence across Government on the cyber security strategy.

The Cyber Security Operations Centre was established on 1 September 2009 to monitor the health of cyber space and co-ordinate incident response.

The Police central e-Crime Unit (which was created in September 2008 and is part of the Metropolitan Police Service) deals with criminal cyber attacks and a number of arrests have been made during 2009.

It would not be in the national or public interest to go into more detail regarding particular measures taken.

Olympic Games 2012: Voluntary Work

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress she has made in promoting volunteering opportunities associated with the London 2012 Olympics in sports clubs; and if she will make a statement. [295376]

Angela E. Smith: The London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games present a huge opportunity to boost both volunteering and participation in sport.

The Government have set a target to get 2 million more people more active by 2012-13, 1 million through sport, which will be delivered by Sport England. In addition, Sport England aims to increase volunteering in sport through their strategy for 2008-11 and a new volunteering centre of excellence team. This team is working with national governing bodies to ensure that sports clubs are provided with the skills, capacity and resources to develop their volunteering and to maximise their enthusiasm for London 2012.

Sport England is also working with Volunteering England and Youthnet on the development of the Cabinet Office funded "Inspiration and Legacy from the 2012 Games" project. The project, launched in May 2009, aims to encourage volunteering as part of the legacy of the 2012 games. It will direct individuals inspired to volunteer by the 2012 games to volunteering opportunities in sports, including sports clubs, culture and the environment.

Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people under the age of 18 are resident in each local authority area. [295509]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people under the age of 18 are resident in each local authority area (295509).

Table 1 shows the number of people aged under 18 resident in each local authority area in mid-2008. These are the latest data available. A copy of the table will be available in the Libraries of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes her Department plans to make to the Access to Work programme in support of the Government's Valuing Employment Now strategy; and if she will make a statement. [294739]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 October 2009]:* The Government are fully committed to ensuring that individuals are able to achieve their full potential and ambitions for work. This includes providing services which better meet the needs of the Public Service Agreement 16 customer group, which includes people with moderate to severe learning disabilities.

With this in mind, the Government launched 'Valuing Employment Now: real jobs for people with learning disabilities' on 24 June 2009. Our aspiration is to close the gap between the employment rate for people with learning disabilities and that of the disabled population as a whole. In real terms this means an extra 45,000 people with learning disabilities in employment.

Access to Work is an important specialist disability employment service delivered by Jobcentre Plus, and therefore will be vital in achieving this aspiration. We are currently exploring how we can ensure that the programme provides the most flexible, responsive and appropriate support for all customers, and to ensure that the funding is focussed on those who need it most, including customers with learning disabilities.

Currently customers are limited to 26 weeks of job coach support. From this autumn we will be making the programme more flexible to ensure that people who require further job coaching can access the service for longer. We anticipate this will be particularly helpful for customers with learning disabilities.

In making the changes to job coaching rules for Access to Work, we will ensure that customers who would be better supported by other provisions such as WORKSTEP and its successor Work Choice (from October 2010) are referred to the most appropriate service for their needs.

The Welfare Reform White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future' contained a commitment to double the Access to Work budget from £69 million to £138 million by 2013-14. This was a confirmation of the announcement originally made in the Welfare Reform Green Paper 'No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility'.

In addition, Access to Work customers have been able to apply for support to participate in a Jobcentre Plus Work Trial since 1 April 2009. Work Trials give customers the opportunity to 'try out' work, and also builds employer confidence in their ability to do the job. Work Trials can last from a few days to six weeks and because there is a genuine job vacancy at the end they are a direct route into paid employment. This may be another route in to meaningful work for people with learning disabilities.

Departmental Advertising

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on which initiatives of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies expenditure on advertising has been incurred in each of the last five years; how much was spent on each such initiative; and which such initiatives were advertised through the Central Office of Information. [292493]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to Baroness Thomas of Winchester on 21 August 2009 (PQ 09 5337). The *Hansard* reference is *Official Report, House of Lords*, 5 October 2009, columns WA439-40.

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff of her Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each year. [290415]

Jim Knight: The Department's policy is to offer staff access to flexible working hours where it fits in with business needs. Where access to a flexible working hours scheme is given, it means that with agreement staff can:

Vary their times of arrival and departure from work

Vary the length and timing of their lunch break

Take time off under the terms of their flexi-time scheme

Flexible working incorporates a wide variety of working patterns that staff can adopt and includes:

Part-time—which means that staff work and are paid for less than full-time hours

As part of a jobshare which usually involves two people each employed on a part-time basis, but working together to cover a full-time post

Compressed hours by which staff work their total hours over a shorter period eg full weekly hours over four days rather than five

Term-time working allowing staff to take unpaid leave during the school holidays

A civil service jobshare website was launched in May 2009, to support those wishing to find jobshare partners.

The Department does not centrally collect statistical data on the number of staff who participate in flexi-time arrangements. The cost of extracting this information in the format requested would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [293246]

Jim Knight: Information on the number and percentage of contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in a year is not maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. As part of the DWP Commercial Strategy, the Department tracks centrally the number of SMEs the Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies does business with in each financial year and the amount it spends with each supplier. This process does not break these figures down into individual agency or NDPB. In 2008-09 the number of SMEs that had contracts with the Department was 9,212 and the total expenditure with them was £429.7 million or 11.2 per cent. of total DWP procurement expenditure in the year. The latest available figures for 2009-10 are £239.3 million or 11.4 per cent. of total procurement expenditure in the period April to end September 2009.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money was re-allocated from her Department to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessor in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and for what reason in each case. [291219]

Jim Knight *[holding answer on 16 September 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for Work and Pensions transferred £645,000 for 2008-09 to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessor, of which £330,000 was in respect of the extension of compensation to all sufferers of Mesothelioma, and £315,000 in respect of the Government Skills Strategy.

(b) The Department for Work and Pensions transferred £975,000 for 2009-10 to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessor, of which £660,000 was in respect of the extension of compensation to all sufferers of Mesothelioma, and £315,000 in respect of the Government Skills Strategy.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data her Department holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290511]

Jim Knight: The level of diversity among people who have joined the Department for Work and Pensions in each of the last three years is as follows:

			Percentage
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Ethnic Minority	10.4	13.4	13.3
White	89.6	86.6	86.7
Disabled	7.1	12.8	9.1
Non-disabled	92.9	87.2	90.9
Women	60.7	59.7	60.4
Men	39.3	40.3	39.6

Departmental Responsibilities: Young Person's Guarantee

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) who has responsibility for identifying the sectors in which opportunities will be created under the sectoral routeway element of the Young Person's Guarantee; and if she will make a statement; [293583]

(2) where the pilots for the Adult Social Care Routeway for the sectoral routeway element of the Young Person's Guarantee will take place; [293584]

(3) what her estimate is of the number of training opportunities in each *(a)* work sector and *(b)* region that will be available in each of the next 18 months under the sectoral routeway element of the Young Person's Guarantee; and if she will make a statement; [293585]

(4) which employers have offered training places under the sectoral routeway element of the Young Person's Guarantee; and if she will make a statement. [293586]

Jim Knight: Jobcentre Plus is working in partnership with the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils and individual Sector Skills Councils in order to identify the labour market sectors that have the potential to provide sectoral routeways.

Care First Careers, a joint Department for Work and Pensions initiative with the Department for Health and the Devolved Administrations, is a sector specific initiative to help 50,000 young people into work in the adult social care sector. The scheme is being piloted in the following four Jobcentre Plus Districts:

South West Wales;
Cheshire, Warrington and Halton;
South Tyne and Wear Valley; and
Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has funding for approximately 37,000 training places in England to March 2011 and is contracting for these using a staged approach. The LSC is now nearing the conclusion of the commissioning process for the first 30,200 places which will be in the following sectors:

Retail;
Hospitality;
Leisure;
Travel and tourism;
Security; and
Facilities management.

The distribution of training places within each sector and the take-up of provision each month will, depend on employer demand at local level.

The Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales have also received consequential funding.

The following table shows the regional distribution of the 30,200 places that have been commissioned so far.

Young Persons Guarantee: Sector Routeways (Routes into Work) Pre-Employment Training Volumes for the period from November 2009 to March 2011

Region	*Volume*
East Midlands	2,684
East of England	2,546
Greater London	3,755
North East	2,456
North West	5,325
South East	2,932
South West	2,019
West Midlands	4,645
Yorkshire and The Humber	3,838
Total regional allocations	30,200

Sources:
1. Department for Work and Pensions.
2. Department for Business Innovation and Skills.
3. Learning and Skills Council.

Pre-employment training, where appropriate, will be delivered by training providers contracted by the Learning and Skills Council.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many external training courses were attended by staff of her Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of attendances at each such course. [289710]

Jim Knight: Information about on how many external training courses were attended by DWP staff and associated costs is not held centrally, as a consequence the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people over the age of 50 years and claiming jobseeker's allowance have found employment through Jobcentre Plus in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last five years. [289194]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many people over the age of 50 years and claiming Jobseeker's Allowance have found employment through Jobcentre Plus in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last five years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus

The available information is in the tables. The information relates to the number of people over 50 recorded as going into employment through the Job Outcome dataset. It excludes those going into self employment. The latest figures are to January 2009.

Number of people over 50 who have found employment through Jobcentre Plus by Jobcentre Plus Region

	2004-5	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*[1]2008-9*
East Midlands	6,960	6,280	6,910	6,380	6,530
East of England	7,590	7,050	7,500	6,880	7,290
London	5,990	5,820	6,080	5,860	5,770
North East	5,390	5,210	5,100	4,680	4,620
North West	9,780	9,170	10,180	9,320	9,160
Scotland	9,940	8,370	8,260	7,190	6,820
South East	9,390	8,970	9,800	8,980	9,080
South West	6,650	6,310	7,040	6,440	6,360
Wales	3,970	3,690	3,850	3,710	3,610
West Midlands	8,540	8,340	8,610	8,120	7,500
York and Humberside	8,190	7,300	8,030	7,400	7,070

Number of people over 50 who have found employment through Jobcentre Plus by Jobcentre Plus District

	2004-5	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*[1]2008-9*
Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Inverclyde	1,440	1,220	1,10	1,050	930
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	2,050	1,910	2,010	1,810	2,010
Birmingham and Solihull	1,610	1,630	1,670	1,480	1,420
Black Country	2,070	1,980	2,120	1,940	1,640
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	1,990	1,840	1,900	1,870	1,930
Central London	370	360	400	430	400
Cheshire, Halton and Warrington	1,410	1,60	1,540	1,410	1,310
City and East London	410	400	440	460	450
Coventry and Warwickshire	1,330	1,200	1,290	1,290	1,220
Cumbria and Lancashire	2,990	2,810	2,890	,2630	2,560
Derbyshire	1,520	1,390	1,550	1,400	1,340
Devon and Cornwall	2,590	2,300	2,490	2,370	2,160
Dorset and	1,380	1,500	1,640	1,620	1,570
Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders	1,450	1,90	1,340	1,100	1,140
Essex	2,110	1,980	2,050	1,880	2,030
Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside	2,080	1,940	1,800	1,570	1,510
Glasgow	880	790	750	740	710

Number of people over 50 who have found employment through Jobcentre Plus by Jobcentre Plus District

	2004-5	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*[1]2008-9*
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon	1,560	1,470	1,680	1,410	1,540
Greater Manchester Central	940	790	1,000	970	990
Greater Manchester East and West	2,370	2,320	2,650	2,340	2,500
Hampshire	2,290	2,110	2,390	2,130	2,110
Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian[1]	2,800	2,160	2,070	1,30	1,520
Kent	2,200	2,170	2,100	2,040	1,950
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	550	520	540	550	580
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	1,90	1,060	1,090	1,010	1,020
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	2,650	2,400	2,740	2,530	2,720
Lincolnshire and Rutland	1,180	1,030	1,070	1,090	1,100
Merseyside	2,070	1,890	2,100	1,970	1,810
Norfolk	1,430	1,320	1,540	1,320	1,330
North and Mid Wales	1,080	1,030	1,090	1,030	1,100
North and North East London	1,450	1,420	1,430	1,310	1,370
North and East Yorkshire and the Humber	3,240	,680	2,880	2,630	2,430
Northumbria	1,870	1,790	1,630	1,640	1,670
Nottinghamshire	1,610	1,460	1,540	1,360	1,370
South East Wales	980	870	1,000	900	830
South London	1,920	1,860	1,880	1,760	1,700
South Tyne and Wear Valley	1,940	1,980	1,980	1,790	1,790
Soyth Wales Valleys	870	830	910	900	830
South West Wales	1,040	960	860	880	840
South Yorkshire	1,840	1,730	2,020	1,780	1,720
Staffordshire	1,830	1,780	1,650	1,660	1,570
Surrey and Sussex	2,720	2,550	2,920	2,540	2,780
Tees Valley	1,580	1,440	1,490	1,240	1,160
The Marches	1,700	1,760	1,880	1,750	1,660
Thames Valley	2,170	2,150	2,390	2,270	2,240
West London	1,290	1,280	1,400	1,350	1,270
West Yorkshire	3,110	2,890	3,130	2,990	2,910
West of England	1,130	1,040	1,230	1,040	1,080

[1] Data incomplete for 20089.

Notes:

1. Job Outcomes counted until 1st January 2009.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

May 2009 Extract of the Job Outcomes Dataset

Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how employers who are willing to provide Work Trials are identified; and what provision is made for external supervision of participants on such trials. [293590]

Jim Knight: Employers willing to provide Work Trials are identified through various channels. For example:

> personal contact made by Jobcentre Plus staff as part of routine marketing, vacancy submission and vacancy follow-up activity;
>
> national promotion, including via Backing Young Britain and the Jobcentre Plus and Directgov websites; and
>
> Jobcentre Plus customers promoting themselves as willing to undertake a Work Trial when applying for vacancies.

Before an employer can participate in the Work Trial programme they must enter into a formal agreement with Jobcentre Plus, that covers the terms and conditions of the programme. The agreement has a requirement for the employer to provide each Work Trial participant with a named contact who will supervise their progress.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work trial placements in each work sector have been available in each of the last 24 months. [293593]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Employment Schemes: Expenditure

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the average cost to her Department of a Work Trial placement. [293589]

Jim Knight: In the first half of 2009-10 a total of £605,782 was spent on reimbursing expenses incurred by those undertaking a Work Trial. Over the same period of time 20,609 people started on Work Trials giving an approximate unit cost per person of £29.

Employment Schemes: Luton

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people she estimates will be involved in the Community Task

Force programme in Luton in the next 12 months. [292722]

Jim Knight: Luton will be part of phase 2 roll-out of the community task force, procurement for which will begin later this year. Estimates of numbers of participants for the phase 2 contract areas are not yet available.

Prior to phase 2 roll-out the work experience element of the young persons guarantee will be delivered through the existing new deal options.

Employment Support Allowance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure that autistic people are able to access a third party advocate during employment support allowance applications. [295220]

Jonathan Shaw: The process designed by Jobcentre Plus for claiming employment and support allowance encourages and fully supports the use of a third party advocate or customer representatives where someone with autism requires assistance with their claim.

Most claims for employment and support allowance are made by phone and initial scripted questions are used to establish whether or not the caller is claiming benefit on behalf of the customer and has their consent. Where customers are likely to have difficulty claiming by phone, claims can be made by post or by face to face interview and with the assistance of relatives, friends or other representatives. Where someone is unable to manage their own affairs Jobcentre Plus can appoint a suitable person to make the claim.

Employment: Mentally Ill

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire (Sir Micheal Spicer), *Official Report*, column 834W, on the Ethnic Employment Taskforce, whether her Department has commissioned any research in order to measure progress towards eliminating discrimination in employment against people who suffer or have suffered from mental ill-health; and if she will make a statement. [292026]

Jim Knight: In July 2009, The Office for Disability Issues commissioned the Institute for Employment Studies to undertake research examining organisations' responses to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the impact of the amendments made to the Act in 2005. This research is investigating how easy employers feel it is to employ people with a range of mental health conditions. The research is due to be completed by March 2010 and we will be comparing the findings with similar research undertaken in 2006 and 2003 to explore changes over time.

Future Jobs Fund

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the number of people resident in unemployment hot spots and claiming employment support allowance, income support or incapacity benefit who will participate in the Future Jobs Fund in the next 12 months. [291038]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The Future Jobs Fund will fund up to 50,000 jobs for people who have been out of work long-term in unemployment hotspots. These jobs will be open to people on a range of benefits, and it is not possible to say in advance how many will be taken by people claiming employment and support allowance, income support or incapacity benefit. However, we will monitor progress closely during live running and in the evaluation.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many jobs she expects to be created under the Future Jobs Fund in *(a)* Luton, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* the East of England in the next 12 months; and what types of job she expects to be created; [292719]

(2) how much funding her Department has allocated to date to *(a)* Luton, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* the East of England under the Future Jobs Fund; and how much funding she expects to allocate in the next 12 months. [292720]

Jim Knight: Three bidding rounds have been completed to date and information can only be provided on the jobs awarded under those rounds. It is not possible to estimate how many additional jobs may be awarded under future bidding rounds in the first 12 months of the project.

Under the first two bidding rounds, 111 jobs will be created in Luton, 137 jobs will be created in Bedfordshire and 1,375 jobs will be created in East of England. These jobs will be created between October 2009 and April 2010.

There were no successful bids for the East of England in the third bidding round which was announced on 14 October 2009.

The types of jobs that will be created in East of England region under the first two bidding rounds are as follows:

A variety of jobs working in museums;

Energy/recycling officers: grounds and facilities maintenance and gardening;

A free handyman service for vulnerable people;

Social enterprise hotel for people with special needs and disabilities;

Assistant Ranger to work alongside Countryside Ranger to enable the country park to have more volunteers of all abilities;

Excavators to assist on archaeological excavations and finds processing in Suffolk;

A variety of jobs in children's services, environmental services, transportation and housing;

Adult Social Care, Green/Environmental jobs/Support Workers children/youth; and

Market Intelligence Researcher, Administrator, Sales and Business Developer, Youth and Community Development Trainee, Landscaping Assistant, Administration and Community Assistant, Sustainability Assistant, Health Projects Assistant, Children Services Assistant, Woodland Operatives, Customer Relationship Assistant, Trainee Finance Officer, Marketing Assistant, Finance Assistant, Human Resources Assistant, Mentor/Mediator Assistant, Business Development Assistant, Recruitment Assistant.

It is also not possible to provide details of the funding allocated to Luton or Bedfordshire. Due to the make-up of the awards in those areas, to reveal information on the number of jobs awarded together with the amount of funding awarded could enable a calculation to be made which would reveal commercially sensitive information about the bids involved.

Across East of England region, £6,475,415 has been granted in the first two bidding rounds. It is not possible to estimate how much funding may be committed under future bidding rounds in the first 12 months of the project.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the average cost of a job created under the Future Jobs Fund to date. [292721]

Jim Knight: As the number of jobs being created and costs vary between bids, the average unit cost per job will change with each funding round. The estimated average cost is expected to be between £6,300-£6,500 per job over the life of the fund.

Incapacity Benefit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children under the age of 16 lived in households where one or more individuals were in receipt of incapacity benefit in each *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency in each of the last five years. [293579]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit participated in work-related programmes in each year since 1997 and *(b)* employment and support allowance have participated in work-related programmes since the scheme began in Norwich North constituency. [296357]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the working age population resident in Tamworth constituency received incapacity benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [296821]

Jonathan Shaw: At February 2009, 5.2 per cent. of the working age population in Tamworth constituency were claiming incapacity benefit.

Notes:

1. Percentage is rounded to one decimal place and includes incapacity benefit credits only claims.

2. Working age is classified as 16-59 for women and 16-64 for men.

3. The methodology used to produce the parliamentary constituency population estimates differs to the methodology used to produce the local authority mid-year estimates, and is subject to further review. In view of this ongoing work, these parliamentary constituency estimates are published as 'experimental statistics' and are under evaluation.

4. Incapacity benefit was replaced in October 2008 (for new claimants only) by employment and support allowance.

Sources:

1. Department for Work Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

2. ONS Mid-term experimental population estimates for 2007.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Jobcentre Plus offices have designated maximum workload capacities. [291217]

Jim Knight *[holding answer on 16 September 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the Acting Chief Executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Jobcentre Plus offices there are in each region; [291603]

(2) how many Jobcentre Plus offices closed in each region in each of the last five years. [291604]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the former Minister of State and the letter from the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves, to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 650-52W.

In light of the current economic conditions and welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years, a decision was taken late in 2008 to suspend the planned closure of 25 Jobcentres. Three small offices in London, where closure had been previously announced, subsequently closed in March and April 2009. No Jobcentres have closed since April 2009.

Jobcentre Plus: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff have been employed in (i) benefit delivery centres and (ii) customer-facing jobcentres operated by Jobcentre Plus in Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency in each year since 2004. [291439]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the Acting Chief Executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many a) permanent b) temporary and c) agency staff have been employed in i) Benefit Delivery Centres and ii) customer-facing Jobcentres operated by Jobcentre Plus in Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency in each year since 2004. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information below national level for the period prior to 2006/07 is not available. The table below sets out data for each of the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09, broken down by permanent, fixed-term appointment and temporary staff. We do not employ agency staff. In addition, in the period since March, Sparkhill Jobcentre has seen further staffing increases in line with the increases across Jobcentre Plus more generally to deal with rising unemployment levels.

Staff employed by the Benefit Delivery Centre and Jobcentre Plus in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency

	Ravenhurst Benefit Delivery Centre	*Sparkhill Jobcentre Plus*
2006/07		
Permanent	234	69
Fixed Term Appointment	14	5
Temporary	—	—
Total	248	74
2007/08		
Permanent	271	79
Fixed Term Appointment	10	7
Temporary	—	3
Total	281	89
2008/09		
Permanent	288	100
Fixed Term Appointment	13	3
Temporary	—	—
Total	301	103

Notes:
1. Headcount figures are quoted in full time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics definitions for counting headcount and details the position at March for each of the last three years.
2. The figures have been rounded to whole numbers.
Source:
The data provided is taken from Dataview, an electronic extract drawn from payroll.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central (Jenny Willott) of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 834W, on Jobcentre Plus: manpower, what the ratio of jobseeker's allowance claimants to members of frontline staff in Jobcentre Plus was in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [288473]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

The ratio of jobseeker's allowance claimants to staff varies between regions. The staff figures provided includes people deployed on work focused and claim processing activity for a wider group than jobseeker's allowance claimants so staff numbers and therefore ratios are impacted by other factors. The contact centre directorate operates a virtual network and therefore aligning their work to geographic boundaries would be misleading. For instance, Wales has three large contact centres handling calls as part of the virtual network. On the same principle, the network of benefit delivery centres can, and do, move work around the country on a weekly basis to maximise speed of claim processing. Although benefit delivery centres are in the main linked to regions/countries, such work movement and some centralised functions mean there is not a clear distinction. For example, applications for national insurance numbers are processed in two centres, Glasgow and Isle of Wight, so staff numbers will be included in the Government office region for Scotland and south east respectively.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time a claimant received jobseeker's allowance in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency was in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [294263]

Jim Knight: The information is in the following tables.

Average length of time a claimant received jobseeker's allowance in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each of the last 12 months

	Median (Number of weeks)
October 2008	7.7
November 2008	7.1
December 2008	9.9
January 2009	7.8
February 2009	7.1
March 2009	9.2
April 2009	10.7
May 2009	10.5
June 2009	8.9
July 2009	11.4
August 2009	12.0
September 2009	11.4

Average length of time a claimant received jobseeker's allowance in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each of the last five years

October to September each year	*Median (Number of weeks)*
2004-05	11.0
2005-06	11.2
2006-07	12.2
2007-08	9.7
2008-09	9.6

Notes:
1. Data are published at: www.nomisweb.co.uk
2. Median, rather than arithmetic mean, is the preferred measure of 'average' for skewed distributions such as duration of claim.
Source:
DWP WPLS 100 per cent. data.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Disabled

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants in England and Wales who are aged 18 to 24 years and who have disabilities have been claiming JSA for 12 months or longer; [290719]

(2) how many jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants in England and Wales who are aged 18 to 24 years and who are blind or partially-sighted have been claiming JSA for 12 months or longer. [290722]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information is not available in the format requested.

Information is available on the numbers of people who are aged between 18 and 24 years and are claiming jobseeker's allowance and disability living allowance.

In February 2009, there were 780 people in England and Wales aged 18 to 24 years with disabilities who had been claiming jobseeker's allowance and disability living allowance for 12 months or longer.

In February 2009, there were 30 people in England and Wales aged 18 to 24 years who were blind or partially-sighted and had been claiming jobseeker's allowance and disability living allowance for 12 months or longer.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100 per cent. sample.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment Support Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland had previously applied unsuccessfully for employment support allowance. [293039]

Jim Knight: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Sight Impaired

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many blind or partially sighted claimants of jobseeker's allowance are between the ages of 18 and 24 years. [291036]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The information is not available in the format requested.

Information is available on the numbers of people who are aged between 18 and 24 years, are blind or partially sighted and are claiming jobseeker's allowance and disability living allowance.

In February 2009, there were 260 people in Great Britain aged 18 to 24 years who were blind or partially sighted and who were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and disability living allowance.

Note:

Figure is rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100 per cent. sample.

New Deal for Disabled People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* registered on and *(b)* obtained (i) employment and (ii) sustainable employment through the New Deal for Disabled People in each year since 2001. [291280]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Registrations for the new deal for disabled people are carried out through Job Brokers. The table shows the number of Job Broker registrations since 2001. One person can register more than once.

The table also gives the recorded number of spells in work obtained through new deal for disabled people. This includes all people referred to a new deal provider, some of whom may not go on to register. The two sets of data are therefore not directly comparable. Data are not available to enable the number of participants who gained 'sustainable' employment to be identified.

	Job Broker registrations (spells)[1]	*Jobs (spells)*[1, 2]
2001	7,220	1,040
2002	30,440	8,890
2003	36,930	19,120
2004	57,100	36,390
2005	65,930	45,360
2006	66,610	40,140
2007	63,290	50,930
2008	38,040	37,040
2009	14,010	5,060
Total	379,570	243,960

[1] A person may have more than one spell on new deal for disabled people or gain more than one job through new deal for disabled people.

[2] As figures include jobs obtained by people who did not proceed to registration, total jobs figures should not be used with total job broker registrations to obtain the proportion of registrants who obtained a job.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The new deal for disabled people was introduced in July 2001.
3. Latest data on Job Broker registrations are to May 2009. Latest data on Jobs are to February 2009.
4. Since the introduction of provider-led pathways to work, new deal for disabled people has been available only in Jobcentre Plus pathways to work districts. Phase 1 provider-led pathways to work was implemented in December 2007 and Phase 2 in April 2008. Provider-led pathways to work covers 60 per cent. of the country.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, information is available at: http://83.244.183.180/new_deals/nddp/live/tabtool.html.

New Deal Schemes: Disabled

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people resident in the London Borough of Bexley have found work through the New Deal in each year since 2005. [294262]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of job starts by disabled people in the London borough of Bexley, who have found work through the new deal for disabled people each year since 2005. Some individuals may have had more than one job start:

New deal for disabled people in the London borough of Bexley

	Number of job starts
2005	60
2006	80
2007	90
2008	50
2009-February 2009	0

Notes:

1. Latest data on jobs are to February 2009.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Pensioners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the work force in Britain are aged over 60 years. [291517]

Jim Knight: 7.9 per cent. of the work force in Great Britain is aged 60 years and over.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* male pensioners with national insurance contributions of between 30 and 43 years were born before 6 April 1945 and *(b)* female pensioners with national insurance contributions of between 30 and 39 years were born before 6 April 1950. [293953]

Angela Eagle: The latest information available indicates that at the end of the financial year 2006-07 there were around 400,000 men and just over 600,000 women between state pension age and age 80 who had accrued between 30 and 43 qualifying years or 30 and 39 qualifying years respectively for basic state pension.

However, individuals with less than 44 or 39 qualifying years can still qualify for a full basic state pension under the current arrangements.

Entitlement to a basic state pension depends on a number of factors including the number of qualifying years accrued, home responsibilities protection and the spouse's contribution record.

Notes:

1. Figures refer to people who are estimated to be resident in the UK in 2006-07.

2. Detailed information is not available for people aged 80 and over due to archiving of records from the National Insurance Recording System.

Source:

Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2006-07.

Social Security Benefits

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 695W, on social security benefits, what the monetary value of all benefit payments made to residents of *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* England was in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [291449]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows.

Benefit expenditure

		£ million
	2007-08	*2008-09*
England	99,314	105,476
Yorkshire and the Humber	9,986	10,552

Notes:

1. Does not cover all benefit expenditure, only the major benefits where the data are available on the DWP tabulation tool. This does however cover approximately 90 per cent. of all benefit expenditure

2. Tables containing benefit expenditure split by benefit, departmental strategic objective, local authority and parliamentary constituency can be found at the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

3. Figures rounded to nearest million

Source:

DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people affected by a marginal withdrawal of benefit rate of more than *(a)* 90 per cent., *(b)* 70 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. in each of the last 10 years. [296097]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Government publish estimates for the numbers of people facing high marginal deduction rates (MDRs), which include tax payments as well as benefit withdrawal. These figures are published in Budget and Pre-Budget Report documents.

Figures provided in Budget 2009 showed that the estimated number of people affected by an MDR of greater than:

90 per cent. was 60,000 (down from 130,000 before Budget 1998).

70 per cent. was estimated at 305,000 (down from 740,000 before Budget 1998).

No estimate has been made for those affected by an MDR of greater than 50 per cent.

Social Security Benefits: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance she is making available to *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* benefit recipients and *(c)* other vulnerable individuals living in North East Fife constituency in meeting the costs of their fuel needs; and what steps she is taking to ensure that people who are not in receipt of a state pension or other benefit administered by her Department are aware of the help available to them. [296127]

Angela Eagle: Pensioners in North East Fife, along with other individuals who have reached age 60, will receive a winter fuel payment to help meet the cost of their winter fuel needs. Households with those aged 60-79 receive £250 while those households with someone aged 80 or over receive £400.

Cold weather payments of £25 a week are paid to those on pension credit in periods of very cold weather. Recipients of other income-related benefits may also be entitled if they have a pensioner or disability premium included in their benefit, or they have a child who is either disabled or under the age of five in the family.

Disabled people can face extra costs all year round. Benefits such as disability living allowance provide additional weekly payments and are related to the individual's circumstances.

The Scottish Government's energy assistance package provides support to pensioners by offering standard energy efficiency measures to older pensioner households, and a package of enhanced measures to pensioners who live in energy inefficient homes. It also provides free central heating systems to all pensioners who have never had one installed in their home.

The Department for Work and Pensions also works closely with other Government Departments on the "Keep Warm Keep Well" campaign, which is aimed at vulnerable households in England, Scotland and Wales and gives information on the health benefits of keeping warm in winter, and details of the grants and benefits available.

We continue to strive to ensure that people are aware of, and take up their entitlements through, initiatives such as: data matching benefits; home visits; advertising and media campaigns; a simple and straightforward claim process and working with partner organisations.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent advertising the Government's crackdown on benefit cheats *(a)* in total and *(b)* in airline magazines in 2009. [291275]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: In 2008-09, the total advertising expenditure for the 'We're Closing In' Targeting Benefit Thieves campaign was £4,967,098.

Between August and October 2009, the total expenditure on 'abroad fraud' communications in airline magazines was £50,604.

The £5 million invested in the campaign represents less than 0.004 per cent. of the benefit bill. We cannot determine exactly how much fraud has been prevented as a direct result of the campaign. However, it is worth noting that in 2000-01, before we ran fraud campaigns, the proportion of money lost to benefit fraud was 2 per cent. The most recent figures for 2008-09 show that it is now 0.6 per cent.

State Retirement Pensions

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans her Department has for future increases in the level of the state pension. [296783]

Angela Eagle: We have given a commitment to increase the basic state pension by 2.5 per cent. or the level of the September Retail Prices Index, whichever is higher.

We are committed to introduce earnings uprating of the basic state pension in 2012-13, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, or in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest.

The Government would inform Parliament of proposed benefit levels and tax thresholds for 2010-11 at the pre-Budget report.

Training

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 63W, on Jobcentre Plus: training, in which training modules or topics new recruits are trained after they have started in post; and if she will make a statement. [293597]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves;

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking in which training modules or topics new recruits are trained after they have started in post. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There is a comprehensive portfolio of induction/foundation events and specific skills and technical learning that new recruits receive before they take up their positions. This includes the 60 hours of induction/foundation learning that all new recruits receive and subsequent job specific learning; for example, all Personal Advisers will receive 130 hours of training, with Disability Benefit Advisers (DEA) receiving a further 59 hours of learning specific to the DEA role.

Once in post all Jobcentre Plus staff are subject to the Department for Work and Pensions People Performance process. As part of this process all Jobcentre Plus staff will have a minimum of four performance reviews with their line manager during the year. As part of these discussions performance will be evaluated against objectives and the relevant competency framework. A key outcome from these discussions is the agreement of a development plan for every member of staff. These will detail the agreed learning needs, identified solutions and timescales for further review. The process is designed to encourage and support the continuous development of every individual and to ensure that their knowledge and skills are continuously evaluated against current and future business needs.

Any further specific learning that someone receives (beyond their induction and initial job specific training) is dependent upon their job role, their progress, any role change and future business change.

To support learning needs, Jobcentre Plus staff have access to over 1070 job-specific learning modules in total. In addition, they have access to the Department for Work and Pensions Leadership and Management journey events. These provide staff with generic leadership and management skills and in some cases access to accreditation. Our staff are encouraged to use a wide range of learning solutions in addition to products such as coaching; for example, Jobcentre staff are encouraged to visit local providers to ensure they are able to confidently talk to our customers about the range of support that we are able to offer to them. All business changes are reviewed to identify the learning that staff will require to deliver them successfully, update learning products accordingly and develop new learning products where required.

JUSTICE

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296005]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has active programmes on all of the OEP areas, though these are at different levels of development. Many of these initiatives aim to realise economies of scale from the functions the MOJ inherited on its creation. For example:

We are now in the final stages of bringing the three main ICT organisations together to form a single ICT function.

The MOJ has agreed an estates strategy to rationalise the estate it inherited on its creation and deliver significant financial, sustainability and effectiveness gains.

A detailed strategy for the MOJ procurement function called Procurement Success has been developed and signed off by our Corporate Management Board.

A new programme of activity designed to achieve the MOJ wide shared service vision for finance and human resources transactional services is currently under consideration.

The Department is also participating in HM Treasury led back office benchmarking exercises and engaging with Government heads of profession in implementing other recommendations.

Value for money features in several of the Department's internal financial training guides for Ministers and staff alike. "Money for Ministers"—An Introduction to Finance in the Ministry of Justice for Ministers—for example, is aimed at helping Ministers through the finance framework MOJ operates to achieve value for money, staying within the fiscal rules, and efficient, effective service delivery, and it offers contacts for further help and/or one-to-one tuition.

For staff, a monthly programme of workshops "Improving Financial Management in MOJ" has a specific section on looking at value for money and how to achieve it. Staff are able to get access to an e-learning module on the Department's intranet and developed by the National School for Government called "Finance Skills For All" which covers topics such as why value for money is a better measure in the public sector then profitability. More generally, the Department has embarked on a programme of bottom up change (LEAN), supported by training, aimed at reducing or eliminating waste within a business system or process of an organisation, so that staff can use their time efficiently, concentrating on the work that adds value to their business.

Discrimination: Age

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many complaints of age discrimination were made to the Employment Tribunal Service in January to October 2009; [296846]

(2) how many complaints of discrimination on the grounds of alcohol-related problems were made to the Employment Tribunal Service in the period January to October 2009; [296822]

(3) how many complaints of discrimination on the grounds of drug addiction were made to the Employment Tribunal Service in the period January to October 2009; [296823]

(4) how many complaints of discrimination on the grounds of mental health problems were made to the Employment Tribunal Service in the period January to October 2009. [296850]

Bridget Prentice: The Employment Tribunal accepted 4,271 age discrimination claims in the period January to September 2009. Data for October 2009 are not yet available.

There were 5,566 disability discrimination claims accepted by the Employment Tribunal in the period January to September 2009.

Claims for an impairment arising from drug or alcohol addiction related issues may be included within the Disability Discrimination category but they are not broken down separately. Claims for mental health related issues are included within the Disability Discrimination category but are not broken down separately.

Henry VIII Clauses: Legislation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Henry VIII powers have been enacted in primary legislation in the present Session of Parliament. [295599]

Mr. Wills: The Government do not routinely collect or hold information about the number of Henry VIII provisions. An exercise is being conducted in order to answer this question which will take some time. The required information is being collated and I hope to write to the hon. Member by the end of November. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Judicial Appointments Commission

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* originally estimated cost and *(b)* actual cost was of the research recently commissioned by the Judicial Appointments Commission from the British Market Research Bureau on barriers to application to the judiciary. [296098]

Mr. Straw: The cost of the research, which was competitively tendered, was £83,556 and the original estimate was £89,300. Both figures are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

The JAC has a statutory duty to have regard to the need to increase diversity in the range of persons available for selection for judicial appointment.

The main research aims were to:

Investigate perceived barriers which may be preventing applications

How removal of barriers would increase applications

How barriers affected different groups.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of applications to the Judicial Appointments Commission were from *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* black and minority ethnic candidates in each of the last three years. [296101]

Mr. Straw: The figures in the table relate to applications to the Judicial Appointments Commission for vacancies for the High Court and below.

	Percentage	*Applications Number*
2006-07		
Male	59	348
Female	41	238
BME	9	50
2007-08		
Male	65	1,644
Female	35	891
BME	13	328
2008-09		
Male	69	2,434
Female	31	1,080
BME	12	430

The year 2006-07 is regarded as a transitional period as far as the published data are concerned because during that period the former Department for Constitutional Affairs completed a number of exercises that were launched before the JAC was created in April 2006.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are used *(a)* for him to be informed about and *(b)* to monitor the work of the Judicial Appointments Commission. [296113]

Mr. Straw: The mechanisms used to inform and monitor the work of the Judicial Appointments Commission are set out in the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and the Framework Document that determines the relationship between the Ministry of Justice and the Judicial Appointments Commission. They include:

Approving the JAC's strategic objectives and targets together with the policy and performance framework in which the JAC will operate;

Approving the amount of grant in aid that the JAC receives;

Laying the JAC's Annual Report before Parliament and;

Considering and making decisions on JAC selections for judicial appointment.

A copy of the Framework Document can be found on the Commission's website at:

http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk

I meet Baroness Prashar, Chairman of the Commission, and my senior officials from time to time to discuss the work of the Judicial Appointments Commission.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times he has met the Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission in each of the last three years. [296114]

Mr. Straw: I met the chairman four times in 2007, thrice in 2008, and thrice to date in 2009.

Judiciary

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage mark is needed to pass the written tests which are part of the application process for new judicial posts; and what the pass rate was for people who sat tests in each of the last three years. [296112]

Mr. Straw: The Qualifying Test is designed as a sift mechanism to objectively identify a shortlist of candidates to be called to the selection day. There is no 'pass mark' as such. The number of candidates to be invited to the selection day is determined by reference to the number of posts available. It is usual practice to invite to interview a ratio of between two to three candidates per post with the highest-scoring candidates making up the number that proceed to the selection day stage.

National Archives: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what financial governance arrangements have been in place at the National Archives for the last three years; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of such arrangements. [297343]

Mr. Wills: For the last three years, The National Archives has been subject to the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. This requires The National Archives to prepare resource accounts for each financial year, in conformity with an HM Treasury direction, detailing the resources acquired, held, or disposed of during the year, and the use of resources by The National Archives during the year. The resource accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of The National Archives, the net resource outturn, resources applied to objectives, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

Cash requirements are forecast on a monthly basis, in advance, and The National Archives liaises with HM Treasury to enable these funds to be made available through the Office of HM Paymaster General (OPG), which is The National Archives' main banking facility. Management information is reported to the Executive Team monthly and all budget holders are subjected to at least a quarterly review of all of their costs and revenue.

HM Treasury has appointed Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive and the Permanent Head of the Department, as Accounting Officer of The National Archives with responsibility for preparing The National Archives' accounts and for transmitting them to the Comptroller and Auditor General. The financial statements of The National Archives for the last three years have been audited by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. The Accounting Officer is also required to produce an annual Statement of Internal Control, which must taken into account actions highlighted by both the Management Board (which contains four non-executive directors) and the Audit Committee, which is chaired by a non-executive director. The Audit Committee is responsible for providing advice and assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control and risk management. It also oversees internal and external audit arrangements, which cover all areas of The National Archives' work, including both financial and non-financial systems. The Comptroller and Auditor General is required to produce a certificate and report to the House of Commons on the financial statements of The National Archives and this has been issued for the past three years with no comment. Therefore, I am assured on an annual basis that The National Archives' financial governance arrangements continue to meet all expected requirements.

National Archives: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new staff at pay bands *(a)* G and *(b)* H have been appointed at the National Archives in the last three years. [297342]

Mr. Wills: As at October 2006, The National Archives employed 34 staff at grade G and 15 at grade H, five of which joined in 2006 when The National Archives merged with the Office of Public Sector Information. In October 2007 The National Archives employed 46 staff at grade G and 17 staff at grade H. This increase from 2006 was as a direct result of a drive across Government to professionalise core services in IT, finance and HR. 11 of the new staff were professionally qualified in these areas. In October 2008 there were 51 staff at grade G and 15 staff at grade H, one of which joined when the Statute Law Database became part of The National Archives and seven of which were new posts, funded externally. As of October 2009 the figure stands at 54 staff at grade G and 16 staff at grade H.

The organisation is at the final stages of completing a cost saving exercise which involves reducing the number of management and administration posts at G and H grade by four. This will bring the net total of G and H grades to 66 in 2010 of which seven will continue to be externally funded.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* directors of finance and *(b)* heads of finance there have been at the National Archives in each of the last three years. [297344]

Mr. Wills: As at October 2006, The National Archives employed a permanent Director of Finance and permanent Head of Finance. The same members of staff were in post in October 2008, leaving in January 2009 and May 2009 respectively. After both post holders departed, the roles were restructured to reflect the changing needs of the organisation, and the posts filled temporarily on an interim basis. The National Archives therefore currently employs an Interim Director of Finance and an Interim Head of Finance. It is in the process of recruiting a permanent Director of Finance. Following the review of the finance department, the Head of Finance post has been split into two roles—one focusing on financial accounts and the other on management accounts. One of these posts has now been filled permanently and the other is on the process of being filled permanently.

Prison: Visits

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison visits there have been in each of the last five years; and what the average number of visits per prisoner was in each such year. [296031]

Mr. Straw: Statistics on the number of social visits taken by prisoners are not centrally collated. However, all prisoners have a statutory entitlement to domestic or social visits. Unconvicted prisoners are entitled to three social visits a week; convicted prisoners are entitled to receive a social visit on reception and thereafter one every two weeks. All social visits should last at least one hour. Under guidance issued by the National Offender Management Service prisoners should have the opportunity for some of these visits to take place at weekends. In addition some prisons also provide opportunities for family visits which focus on improving the relationship between the imprisoned parent and their children.

Prisoners Release: Domestic Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to instigate risk assessments and home circumstance reports prior to release on End of Custody Licence of any offender whose offence involved domestic violence. [296027]

Mr. Straw: All prisoners released on ECL would have to have been released at their statutory release date a maximum of 18 days' later. For this reason, ECL operates according to precise fixed criteria: if prisoners meet the set criteria they are released on ECL. Prisoners serving a sentence for a violent offence (such as conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, unlawful wounding, cruelty to children) are excluded.

Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 requires that prisons should take appropriate action in response to any information they have received that a prisoner who is eligible for release on ECL poses a risk of domestic violence or to a specific victim on release as follows:

> All release arrangements that would otherwise have taken place 18 days later are brought forward to the ECL release date. As with any release, if the prison has information that indicates a risk to a victim, that information should be provided to the police and, where appropriate, submitted to the Multi Agency Pubic Protection Panel, in line with routine risk management arrangements.
>
> Where the prison has information that indicates the prisoner has given the address of his victim as his release address, this should be flagged up to the local police so that measures to address the risk can be put in place.

Prison Governors will not release those prisoners who will be subject to supervision on release to an address prohibited by their offender manager in the supervision licence. In such cases ECL release will only take place if a suitable alternative address is provided. Where prisoners are subject to supervision on release, any conditions included on the normal supervision licence must also be included on the ECL licence.

There are no current plans to make any changes to the scheme. When prison population concerns allow, the scheme will be ended.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of manslaughter committed while on End of Custody Licence since 29 June 2007; [296025]

(2) in which courts each offender convicted of committing murder while on End of Custody Licence was sentenced in the last three years. [296026]

Mr. Straw: Determinate sentenced prisoners fulfilling the relevant conditions may be released into the community up to 18 days earlier than the halfway point of their sentence under the End of Custody Licence (ECL) scheme. Indeterminate sentenced prisoners are not eligible for ECL. Data on ECL releases, recalls and alleged re-offending is published every month on the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Of those prisoners who were released on ECL and were subsequently charged with and convicted of manslaughter, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has been notified in line with Serious Further Offences (SFO) procedures that there has been one case where an offender who was charged with manslaughter. However, this offender subsequently entered a guilty plea to murder and therefore was convicted of murder.

In total, there have been two offenders released on ECL convicted of murder since commencement of the scheme on 29 June 2007. These two offenders were sentenced in Leeds Crown Court and the Royal Courts of Justice to life sentences in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

Of those released on ECL since the scheme began, NOMS has been notified that about 3 per cent. have been recalled to custody. Fewer than 2 per cent. have been notified to NOMS as having allegedly offended during the ECL period.

Prisoners Transfers: Libya

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to what extent consideration of the effect on commercial contracts for oil and gas were taken into account in negotiations between the Government and Libya on the prisoner transfer agreement signed in November 2008. [291849]

Mr. Straw: The prisoner transfer agreement between the United Kingdom and Libya was one of four agreements in the field of judicial cooperation signed by the United Kingdom and Libya on 17 November 2008. Signature of these agreements is a tangible sign of the normalisation of the relationship between Libya and the United Kingdom and between Libya and the wider international community following its renunciation of international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

In negotiating the prisoner transfer agreement account was taken of the impact of the agreement across a range of issues, including trade. However, there was no deal between the UK and Libya to secure the transfer of any individual in return for commercial contracts, or otherwise.

Prisoners: Compensation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any compensation has been paid to Shane Gormally, formerly held in HM Prison Hull; and if he will make a statement. [296022]

Mr. Straw: There is no central record of any civil litigation claim being brought against the Prison Service by Mr. Gormally, and therefore, no central record of any compensation being paid to him.

Prisoners: Drugs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners received treatment for alcohol addiction in the last five years. [296155]

Mr. Straw: Epidemiological studies show that around 8 per cent. of females and 7 per cent. of males coming into prison are dependent on alcohol for which clinical detoxification, the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) and Alcoholics Anonymous/Peer Support are key interventions available in prison.

Alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services for those with an alcohol dependency in prisons are in the main provided within the wider drug treatment framework. The proportion of prisoners accessing alcohol treatment services is at present generally not disaggregated. However, I am asking for advice on the collective of better data overall on alcohol dependency, abuse and treatment of those in custody.

The needs of prisoners with an alcohol problem are important. A great deal of good work is undertaken in prisons, with a range of interventions in place to support those with an alcohol problem. These vary across prisons but can include:

clinical services—alcohol detoxification, available in all prisons that have implemented the clinical elements of the IDTS;

where alcohol is part of a wider substance misuse problem, the full range of drug interventions are available;

alcohol awareness courses;

an Alcohol information pack and awareness video is available for all prisoners and an alcohol leaflet will shortly be available;

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) run groups in around 67 per cent. of prisons;

some offending behaviour programmes address the underlying factors which occur in alcohol related crime;

for those prisons involved in the roll-out of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS), a 90 minute alcohol awareness session is available, this will be available in all prisons in 2009.

a 12-step accredited alcohol programme is being run at HMP Bullingdon and an accredited Alcohol Related Violence programme based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is being run at HMP Chelmsford with three further sites planned to be running later in the year; and

the young persons substance misuse service for 16-18 year old prisoners (has a particular focus on alcohol).

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions each London prison has declared a lock-out in the last 12 months. [296151]

Mr. Straw: The table shows the number of prisoners the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) records as being 'locked-out' of prison between October 2008 and September 2009.

NOMS attributes the increase in numbers during February 2009 to the severe snowfall in London on 2 February, which disrupted prisoner escorts to and from courts. In the majority of cases 'lockouts' occurred as a result of late court sittings and the contractor then not being able to return prisoners by prison closing time.

	HMP									
	Belmarsh	*Brixton*	*Feltham A*	*Feltham B*	*Holloway*	*Latchmere House*	*Pentonville*	*Wandsworth*	*Wormwood Scrubs*	*Total*
October 2008	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	5
November 2008	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
December 2008	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
January 2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
February 2009	5	3	1	4	—	—	4	3	14	34
March 2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
April 2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
May 2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
June 2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
July 2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	5
August 2009	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
September 2009	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	5	3	1	5	0	0	8	8	17	47

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much alcohol was detected in prisons in the last five years. [296156]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a strategy to reduce supply and demand for alcohol with a comprehensive range of security measures and searching techniques to detect items of contraband including alcohol, and to prevent smuggling into establishments. However, NOMS does not centrally record centrally how much alcohol is detected in prisons. In the light of the hon. and Learned Member's question I have asked NOMS senior officials to let me have advice on putting a system for the central collection of such data.

Prisons: Employment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison workshops have *(a)* opened, *(b)* closed and *(c)* changed function in each of the last seven years. [296033]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of prison industrial workshops[1] that opened, closed or changed function or industry type since 2002.

[1] Including industrial laundries but excluding purely vocational training courses e.g. plumbing, bricklaying, painting and decorating, etc.

Prison industry workshops

Number

	Opened	*Closed*	*Changed function/industry type*
2002	11	0	3
2003	2	0	3
2004	7	1	7
2005	4	0	12
2006	4	2	16
2007	9	2	15
2008	2	1	10
2009[1]	12	4	22

[1] Number to October 2009. In 2009, the policy was extended to include workshops operated on behalf of registered charities (e.g. Braille).

Central records are not complete before 2004 as there was no requirement for public prison establishments to refer cases, for workshop closures or changes to industry type, to National Offender Management Service (NOMS) headquarters for approval. Those shown for 2002 and 2003 above are predominantly for Prison Information and Communication Technology Academies only.

Instructions were introduced in 2004 that require NOMS headquarters approval to be obtained for public prison establishments to ensure that national strategic plans for employment and service delivery are consistently maintained.

Prisons: Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of service in a single post of a serving prison governor is. [295464]

Maria Eagle: The average length of time in post for current in charge governors of prisons is 2.4 years.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what definition of overcrowded accommodation his Department uses in respect of prisons; and what percentage of prisoners in England and Wales have been held in overcrowded accommodation in each of the last five years. [296844]

Maria Eagle: The definition of overcrowding in prisons is the total number of prisoners who, at unlock on the last day of the month, are held in a cell, cubicle or room where the number of occupants exceeds the uncrowded capacity of the cell, cubicle or room. This includes the number of prisoners held two to a single cell, three prisoners in a cell designed for two and any prisoners held overcrowded in larger cells or dormitories. If an establishment's population exceeds its total in-use CNA at the end of the month then this constitutes overcrowding.

The percentage of prisoners in England and Wales held in overcrowded accommodation in each of the last five years is:

	Percentage
2004-05	24.3
2005-06	24.0
2006-07	24.6
2007-08	25.3
2008-09	24.7

Prisons: Security

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of each type of instances of disorder were recorded in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [296845]

Maria Eagle: The data in the following table show the number of disturbance-related incidents recorded on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System in prisons in England and Wales for the last three financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Breakdown of disturbance-related incidents in prisons in England and Wales 2006-07 to 2008-09

	Barricade	*Concerted indiscipline active*	*Concerted indiscipline passive*	*Hostage*	*Incidents at height*[1]
2006-07	460	68	67	25	199
2007-08	521	67	51	38	242
2008-09	524	69	58	25	344

[1] An incident at height is defined as any incident taking place over three feet from ground level and includes where prisoners have gained access to safety netting.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Although barricades and incidents at height have increased, overall trends in other incidents relating to disorder such as concerted indiscipline and hostage taking, have remained stable. The majority of disorder-related incidents are of a minor nature and are resolved quickly and professionally by trained staff thereby preventing escalation of the incident.

Remand in Custody: Prison Sentences

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many adults usually resident in the North Wales Police force area are *(a)* remanded in custody and *(b)* serving a custodial sentence. [296781]

Maria Eagle: As of 8 May 2009 there were 580 adults serving a custodial sentence and 78 adults who were either held on remand or were convicted awaiting sentence that have a home address in the North Wales police force area.

These figures include male and female prisoners but do not include young offenders and juveniles. All prisoners are asked for details of their home address on first reception to prison and on discharge from prison. About 60 per cent. of prisoners are shown to have given a recognised address. If no address is given, various proxies are used to determine home location, including next-of-kin address and committal court address.

Supreme Court: Operating Costs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated running costs of the new Supreme Court are for the 2010-11. [296916]

Mr. Straw: The annual running costs of the Supreme Court are expected to be £13.5 million. In a Written Ministerial Statement to Parliament on 15 July 2009, it was announced that the anticipated running costs for the UK Supreme Court would be £12.3 million. At present Her Majesty's Court Service pays £1.2 million pension and national insurance contributions with respect to the Law Lords. For transparency this was transferred to the UK Supreme Court from 1 October. This does not represent any additional cost to the public purse. For the first year we have provided an additional £300,000 to cover transitional set-up costs, this is being met from within existing resources. The costs of some aspects of the court's operation, including security, remain to be finalised and so the anticipated running costs will continue to be refined and reviewed.

Supreme Court: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees of the new Supreme Court earn more than *(a)* £50,000, *(b)* £75,000 and *(c)* £100,000 a year. [296915]

Mr. Straw: The Supreme Court has 39 employees. Of those 39 employees, four earn between £50,000 and £75,000, one earns between £75,000 and £100,000, and one earns more than £100,000.

Swine Flu

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of his Department's staff are recorded as having been diagnosed with swine influenza. [296176]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice sick absence reporting process does not have a category dedicated to recording swine influenza as a reason for absence. The Ministry reports absence against the Cabinet Office sick absence reasons. Any absence due to swine flu is recorded in the category of 'Respiratory System (including colds)'.

In the 12 months from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, which are the latest published sick absence statistics, 'respiratory illness' was a reason for absence in respect of 79,309 days of sick absence. 68 per cent. of those days were classed as long-term sickness. In the same period of time 87,042 individual members of staff were employed by the Ministry (which includes those who left employment in this period).

Transgendered Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of transgendered prisoners in England and Wales; [296023]

(2) how many *(a)* draft and *(b)* final prison service instructions or orders concerning transgendered prisoners have been published since 1997; [296029]

(3) what recent consideration he has given to the adequacy of prison accommodation provided for transgendered prisoners. [296030]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Neither the Department of Health nor the Ministry of Justice collect information on the number of transgender prisoners.

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA) gives a person in possession of or applying for a Gender Recognition Certificate the right to privacy. However, not all transsexual or transgender prisoners will be covered by a GRA and it does not necessarily afford that person absolute anonymity. There may be certain situations where it may be required to prove a link between their current legal gender and their former gender, for example, to prevent further offences. This information is also not available centrally.

No Prison Service Instruction or Order (PSI/PSO) concerning transgender prisoners have been published since 1997.

A draft PSO on guidelines for the management, treatment and care of prisoners who have or have had gender dysphoria is undergoing revision following the ruling of a recent Judicial Review in which the claimant, a pre-operative transgender prisoner, applied for Judicial Review of a decision of the defendant Secretary of State for Justice refusing to transfer her from a male prison to a female prison. The application was accepted and the outcome ruled in favour of the claimant.

There is no specific policy guidance regarding accommodation for transgender prisoners.

Officials at the Department and the National Offender Management Service are currently considering accommodation issues as part of the draft Prison Service Order on guidelines for the management, treatment and care of prisoners who have or have had gender dysphoria.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies Enterprise Trust

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 officials from his Department met representatives of the Academies Enterprise Trust; and if he will make a statement. [297009]

Mr. Coaker: Departmental officials meet with academy sponsors on a regular basis. We do not hold central records of the date of these meetings.

Children: Social Services

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department's Freedom of Information liaison officer is routinely involved in the process of preparing answers to parliamentary questions; and whether that officer was consulted in preparing the answer of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1664-67W, on children: social services. [296740]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department involves officials from particular disciplines in providing professional advice to Ministers as appropriate. It does not routinely disclose who provides that professional advice.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1664-67W, on children: social services, whether the information on date of death by month has been released in response to a request made to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [296741]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on date of death by month has not been released in response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Department. Any requests made to local authorities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be answered locally and the Department would not expect to be made aware of such requests or responses.

Education: Miscarriages of Justice

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of false allegations made about education staff in their work in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [296933]

Mr. Coaker: The Department provides guidance to local authorities and schools on dealing with allegations against teachers and other staff in "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education".

Under these arrangements all allegations that meet the relevant criteria are reported locally. All local authorities have a senior officer with responsibility for keeping records and provide data to the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their use as part of their evaluation and monitoring role. As data are collected locally the Department does not collect this information or make estimates centrally.

Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation has received from his Department in each of the last three years. [297041]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation has not received any direct funding from this Department.

Schools: Counselling

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* primary school pupils and *(b)* secondary school pupils in England have access to a professional counsellor in their school; and by what mechanism such provision is funded; [297003]

(2) how much was spent on counselling in schools in *(a)* 2003-07 and *(b)* 2008. [296930]

Mr. Coaker: The school funding system provides a sum per pupil in a local authority for it to distribute for all its education responsibilities including schools. Once delegated to a school, it is for the school governors to decide upon the use of the delegated budget to meet the school's priorities, which may include purchasing the services of a counsellor.

We do not collect information on the use of school funding in sufficient detail to capture information about which schools are providing counselling services and what is spent on these services. We do not collect information on which schools employ professional counsellors.

We are committed to improving the emotional and mental health of children and young people and to help them develop social and emotional skills, improve self-esteem and self-control, enabling them to develop good relationships and to promote their resilience, so they can adapt to change and cope with difficult circumstances. This may include the use of services such as counselling.

Access to counselling services has been provided locally through a number of DCSF initiatives developed in recent years. Counselling services may be provided through schools (including Pupil Referral Units) working with other agencies such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, social care and or third sector organisations. For pupils with behaviour related difficulties, counselling support may be provided through local Behaviour and Education Support Teams and Learning Support Units.

Supporting the psychological well being and mental health of pupils is a key component of whole school programmes such as the Healthy Schools Programme and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme. Such programmes are intended for pupils generally and may need to be supplemented by more specialist support for certain pupils.

The "Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future" White Paper, published in June, stated that in order that every young person in secondary school gets the help they need to progress in learning and has a source of personal support, we will make sure that each one has a Personal Tutor who knows them well and who will support them in planning their learning, in making choices and through difficult times.

The Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) programme, funded by £60 million between 2008-2011, builds on the successful social and emotional aspects of learning programme (SEAL) for those pupils who need additional support. Some of the schools involved in the programme have chosen to offer counselling-based approaches as part of their package therapeutic interventions to children at risk of developing mental health problems.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of implementation of the diploma programme. [295423]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have spent £172.3 million on diplomas during the last four years. We are continuing to provide additional funding to support diploma delivery and capacity building over the rest of the current Spending Review years; in the current financial year we are making an additional £151.5 million available to support the diploma programme and have an estimated spend of £198.3 million for 2010-11.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much expenditure under each budget heading his Department has incurred on the introduction of diploma courses and qualifications in each year since 2005; [295555]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on diplomas in each of the next three years; and under what budgetary headings such expenditure is expected to be incurred. [295556]

Mr. Iain Wright: Expenditure for 2005-06 to 2008-09 on diplomas was made under the following categories:

development costs for diploma qualifications; for 2008-09 onwards it also includes costs of Diploma Awarding;

preparation funding to support consortia to deliver diplomas;

funding for local delivery and capacity building, including the diploma specific grant; from 2008-09 onwards it includes the diploma formula grant which supports additional costs of early delivery of diplomas at KS4;

work force development to prepare the work force for the delivery of diplomas; and

supporting transport arrangements in the most rural areas.

Total spend on diploma qualifications in each of these categories for each financial year is as follows:

£

	Development	*Preparation*	*Direct and indirect*	*Work force development*	*Transport*
2005-06	2,479,000	0	0	0	0
2006-07	5,000,000	0	0	4,400,000	0
2007-08	9,612,000	15,203,000	2,195,582	19,501,000	0
2008-09	12,900,000	26,700,000	17,900,000	55,800,000	1,000,000

The estimated funding level for diplomas for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is as follows:

	£ million
2009-10	151.5
2010-11	198.3

2011-12 will be considered as part of the next Spending Review process.

Young People: Learning Disabilities

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many of those diagnosed with *(a)* dyslexia and *(b)* dyspraxia between the ages of 11 and 18 have gone on to attend university in each year since 1997; [296450]

(2) how many children diagnosed with *(a)* dyslexia and *(b)* dyspraxia before entering secondary school have gone on to attend university in each year since 1997. [296451]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not held centrally on children and young people diagnosed with dyspraxia entering higher education. The numbers of 18-year-old undergraduate entrants who were recorded as having dyslexia in the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record are given in the table as an alternative. This information is self-reported: therefore a student may choose not to share information about his/her disability.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available from HESA in January 2010.

UK Domicile undergraduate entrants[1] with Dyslexia[2] UK higher education institutions, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	18-year-old entrants
1997-98	1,375
1998-99	1,615
1999-2000	1,985
2000-01	2,305
2001-02	3,070
2002-03	3,390
2003-04	3,945
2004-05	4,405
2005-06	5,450
2006-07	5,385

UK Domicile undergraduate entrants[1] with Dyslexia[2] UK higher education institutions, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	18-year-old entrants
2007-08[3]	5,730

[1] Covers Entrants to full-time and part-time courses

[2] Dyslexia is part of the HESA field 'Disability' which records the type of disability that a student has, on the basis of the student's own self-assessment.

[3] Figures for 2007/08 refer to the category 'A specific learning difficulty e.g. dyslexia' in the 'Disability' field and are not directly comparable to previous years.

Notes:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December. Figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines since its inception. [294978]

Joan Ruddock: The Department funds the ACT ON CO_2 advice line run by The Energy Saving Trust, which offers bespoke advice to consumers on how they can effectively save energy, water and waste.

DEFRA and Business Innovation and Skills public inquiry lines are also geared to respond to public inquiries on all aspects of DECC's business.

No line makes money from its operation.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295726]

Joan Ruddock: BIS and DEFRA public phone lines currently cover public inquiries on DECC's remit.

Where appropriate, and dependent on the purpose of the telephone service being offered, DECC would look to seek accreditation.

THA may be an appropriate accreditation.

G20: Greater London

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what commitments the Government entered into during the G20 London summit on energy, climate change and related matters. [297115]

Joan Ruddock: The Communiqué issued at the end of the G20 London summit detailed the commitments as follows:

> "We agreed to make the best possible use of investment funded by fiscal stimulus programmes towards the goal of building a resilient, sustainable and green recovery. We will make the transition towards clean, innovative, resource efficient, low carbon technologies and infrastructure. We encourage the multilateral development banks to contribute fully to the achievement of this objective. We will identify and work together on further measures to build sustainable economies.
>
> We reaffirm our commitment to address the threat of irreversible climate change, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and to reach agreement at the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009."

G8: Italy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for which aspects of the Government's contribution to commitments agreed at the G8 Summit in L'Aquila his Department is responsible. [297225]

Joan Ruddock: The commitments agreed at the G8 Summit in L'Aquila which the Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for can be found in the G8 Communiqué entitled 'Responsible Leadership For A Sustainable Future' accessible electronically at:

http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Declaration_08_07_09_final.O.pdf

The relevant paragraphs are: 39—44, 60—80, 83—93.

Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which countries were represented at the Major Economies Forum on Climate Change held on 18 and 19 October; what papers were presented; and if he will publish on his Department's website a copy of *(a)* each paper circulated and *(b)* the statement agreed at the conclusion of the meeting. [295662]

Joan Ruddock: Participants of the London Major Economies Forum were: Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Canada, China, EU Commission, EU Presidency, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. Norway attended as an observer.

Vulnerable countries were also invited to attend the London MEF. Lesotho and the Maldives attended at ministerial level and therefore had a seat at the table. Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Ethiopia attended as observers.

The output of the meeting is available at:

http://www.actoncopenhagen.decc.gov.uk/en/ambition/achievements/october/mef-show-copenhagen-do-able

Renewable Energy: Local Government

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department is monitoring the adherence of local authorities to their obligation to promote and encourage the development of renewable energy resources in their local development policy. [293426]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local planning authorities in England are required to make an annual report to the Secretary of State on the extent to which the policies set out in local development documents are being achieved. In addition my Department published research on our website in July 2009 which looked at the ambition of targets for renewable energy set in regional spatial strategies and their implementation. We are also currently undertaking research into the take up of and application of the policies in the Planning Policy Statement on Planning and Climate Change. Planning elsewhere in the UK is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

United Nations Adaptation Fund

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government provided to the United Nations Adaptation Fund in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; what funding is planned for 2010; and if he will make a statement. [294337]

Joan Ruddock: The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC and launched at COP-7 in Marrakech, in 2001. Its aim was to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in vulnerable developing countries. The Board of the Adaptation Fund was then established in 2008. The Fund is expected to become operational before the climate change conference in Copenhagen at the end of this year. The Adaptation Fund has a unique mechanism for financing, which is not dependent on contributions from specific countries. Instead, it is financed by a market-based source of funding—a 2 per cent. levy on the proceeds of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which was also established under the Kyoto Protocol. Nevertheless, the UK has been supporting the design and implementation of the Adaptation Fund both as a board member and through provision of £0.5 million start-up funding.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations: Public Consultation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses were received to his Department's public consultation on proposals to revise Building Regulations *(a)* Part F on ventilation and *(b)* Part L on conservation of fuel and power; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such response. [296888]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department received over 400 responses to the public consultation on proposals to revise Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations 2000. The responses are currently being analysed. A summary of the responses will be published on the Department's website in due course. A copy of each individual response not marked as confidential will be placed in the Library at the same time.

Chief Fire Adviser

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the post of Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate of Fire Services has been renamed as Chief Fire Adviser; and if he will make a statement. [293001]

Mr. Malik: The 2003 Fire and Rescue Service White Paper proposed the reform of the role of HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI). Ministers decided that as it was no longer undertaking its original core function of inspecting all fire and rescue services in England, it should be abolished with effect from 1 February 2007. Later that year, the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser's Unit (CFRA) was established to provide strategic advice and guidance to ministers, civil servants, fire and rescue services in England and other stakeholders (including the devolved Administrations), on the structure, organisation and performance of the Fire and Rescue Service.

Community Relations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to implement the recommendations made in the report of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion on Building united and resilient communities, developing shared futures; and what changes have been made to the funding of external organisations as a consequence of such implementation. [295761]

Mr. Malik: The Government published their plans for implementing the report of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion on 4 February 2008. This included the announcement of £50 million for community cohesion work over three years. £34 million was allocated to local authorities through Area Based Grant; £7.5 million to interfaith work; £4.5 million to positive activities for young people; and the remainder to support for local areas. More recently, the Government have allocated further funding to support local areas as part of the Connecting Communities programme. Elements of the above funding will go to external organisations.

Council Housing: East of England

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants there were in *(a)* St. Albans constituency, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the East of England in each year since 1997. [297528]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 356W.

Council Housing: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the capital expenditure per unit of council housing has been in each local authority area in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [291655]

Mr. Ian Austin: A table containing the information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the capital receipts from the sale of local authority housing stock in Tamworth constituency were in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the sum was *(a)* retained by Tamworth Borough Council and *(b)* passed to his Department in each of those years. [297121]

Mr. Ian Austin: Prior to 1 April 2004, local authorities retained receipts arising from the disposal of their housing assets, although authorities with debt set aside a proportion of those receipts to repay their housing debt.

The following table shows for each financial year since 1999-2000 the total housing receipts received by Tamworth borough council and since 2004-05 the total amount of those receipts which were surrendered to the Exchequer Consolidated Fund. These do not pass directly to the Department for Communities and Local Government, nor are they hypothecated to specific policy areas but, together with other resources, contribute towards the overall fiscal envelope within which departmental public expenditure programmes are agreed as part of the Spending Review process.

£000

	Total housing receipts received by Tamworth borough council	*Total of those receipts passed to the Exchequer Consolidated Fund*
1999-2000	3,101	n/a
2000-2001	[1]—	n/a
2001-2002	4,318	n/a
2002-2003	7,429	n/a
2003-2004	10,388	n/a
2004-2005	7,214	5,230
2005-2006	5,350	3,649
2006-2007	2,110	1,526
2007-2008	1,802	1,306
2008-2009	361	259

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] = Not available.

Data for 2003-2004 and previous years were provided by the local authority on a voluntary basis in the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix. Since 2004-2005, data on housing receipts and the calculation of the proportion of those receipts that must be paid to the Secretary of State has been a requirement, and it is audited every year.

The parliamentary constituency of Tamworth covers the whole of the area administered by Tamworth borough council, and part of the area administered by Lichfield district council. Data on housing receipts are collected on the basis of local authorities, not parliamentary constituencies.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken for *(a)* all applicants and *(b)* single mothers to be allocated to local authority accommodation in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency was in each year since 1997. [297230]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the length of time taken to house applicants in local authority accommodation is not collected centrally.

Council Housing: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many 18 to 21-year-olds are housed as priority need owing to their status as a former relevant child. [298829]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

Data collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty to secure that suitable accommodation is available ("homeless acceptances"). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The priority need categories include a person (other than a relevant student) who is under 21 and, at any time after reaching the age of 16, but while still under 18, was, but is no longer, looked after, accommodated or fostered. Between April and June 2009 (the most recent period for which data are available), 130 homeless acceptances fell within this priority need category.

The priority need categories also include a person (other than a relevant student) who has reached the age of 21 and who is vulnerable as a result of having been looked after, accommodated or fostered. Between April and June 2009, 40 homeless acceptances fell within this priority need group, but it is not possible to identify the age of the applicants.

The term "relevant student" means a person to whom section 24B(3) of the Children Act 1989 applies, who is in full time further or higher education and whose term-time accommodation is not available to him during a vacation.

Former relevant children under 21 are likely to qualify for advice and assistance from the responsible Children's Services authority, including assistance in meeting their accommodation needs. The general expectation is that they will receive sufficient support to avoid them becoming homeless. However, if a former relevant child's accommodation arrangements break down unavoidably, the homelessness legislation provides a safety net to ensure they will have suitable accommodation available.

Council Tax: Bromley

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwelling house code and *(b)* value significant code in the local authority area of Bromley. [295704]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwelling house code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, have been placed in the Library of the House.

Council Tax: Debt Collection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 584W, on council tax: debt collection, what the timetable is for the planned changes to the enforcement of council tax; and whether the plans will require *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation. [295895]

Barbara Follett: Although 97 per cent. of council tax was collected in 2008-09 there are still people who, despite being able to afford to pay their bills, do not do so. That is why, on 2 July last year my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) announced that this Department was working with the Ministry of

Justice to devise new ways of collecting and enforcing council tax, in particular by allowing local authorities to transfer debt cases from magistrates courts to county courts. If the Government decide to extend the enforcement regime in this way it would have to be done through primary legislation. Local authorities have a duty to their rate payers to ensure that every one of their hard earned pounds works as hard as they do.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is the policy of the Valuation Office Agency to value a self-contained annexe as a separate dwelling for council tax purposes in cases where planning permission for the property was granted on the condition that the annexe should not be sold or sub-let separately. [293265]

Barbara Follett: If an annexe is a self contained unit, it must be treated as a separate dwelling under the Council Tax (Chargeable Dwellings) Order 1992. Conditions attached to planning permission that prevent a separate sale are ignored as all dwellings must be banded for council tax purposes using the valuation assumptions set out in regulation 6 of the Council Tax (Situation and Valuation of Dwellings) Regulations 1992, which include an assumption of sale.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the addition of a conservatory to a dwelling is considered by the Valuation Office Agency to be value significant for the purposes of council tax valuations and revaluations. [293419]

Barbara Follett: The addition of a conservatory is likely to be value significant and would constitute a "material increase" under section 24(10) Local Government Finance Act 1992. As such it would not affect a council tax band unless and until a "relevant transaction" took place (and only then if it added sufficient value to put a property into a higher band).

In the event of a revaluation the existence of a conservatory would be taken into account, as would any other feature, positive or negative, that affects value in the market at the time.

Council Tax: Windsor

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in the local authority area of Windsor are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwelling house code and *(b)* value significant code, including each individual (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency; and if he will make a statement. [296201]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwelling house code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, have been placed in the Library of the House.

Council Tax: Wokingham

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in the local authority area of Wokingham are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwelling house code and *(b)* value significant code, including each individual (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency; and if he will make a statement. [296200]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwelling house code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, have been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Internet

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the cost of maintaining and updating its Twitter account in 2009-10; and how many staff are responsible for updating the account. [296851]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 966W, to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296055]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government is committed to ensuring that everyone at every grade has the skills and knowledge they need to deliver effectively for the Department.

This involves a strategic learning and development offer which provides a wide and flexible range of support through core programmes and specific events for individuals.

No specific training for Ministers or officials on the delivery of value for money is offered at this time.

Fire Services

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will require local authorities to ensure that *(a)* there will be no compulsory redundancies as a result of the FiReControl project and *(b)* (i) the Fire Brigades Union will be fully recognised within the workplace and (ii) the Fire Service Grey Book pay, terms and conditions will apply to the service after implementation of the project. [295736]

Mr. Malik: Decisions on staffing levels, terms and conditions and union recognition are for the employers—currently the fire and rescue authorities and then the local authority controlled companies and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority once the regional control centres are up and running.

Under TUPE legislation, transferring staff's current terms and conditions will transfer with them to the regional control centre. Union recognition is a matter for the employers but if a sufficient percentage of staff are members of a union then recognition is automatic.

Redundancies should be a last resort. The Department has provided guidance to the employers to encourage them to explore all possible avenues including, for example, redeployment and retraining.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the implementation of the FiReControl programme; and what difficulties have been encountered in that implementation. [295876]

Mr. Malik: Good progress has been made on a number of fronts: eight out of nine regional control centres (RCCs) buildings have been built, fire and rescue authorities have come together to form regional local authority controlled companies to run the RCCs and equipment installation in local fire stations is on track.

However, in July we rescheduled the implementation timetable. It became clear that technical problems with developing the IT system in a way which met all our and the fire and rescue services' requirements meant that further time would be needed to complete the project. The first RCCs are scheduled to take calls from May 2011.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new fire stations were built in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Shropshire in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [296002]

Mr. Malik: This information, which is reported in financial year returns to the Department, is shown in the table.

Number of new fire stations in England, the West Midlands region and Shropshire 2006-07 to 2008-09

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England	3	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0
Shropshire	0	0	0

Source:
Annual returns to CLG

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the initial estimate of the cost of the regional FiReControl project was; and what his most recent estimate is of the final cost of the project. [296413]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Copeland (Mr. Reed) today (PQ 295869).

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what evidence was assessed by his Department prior to proposing to create one body responsible for the governance of Firebuy Limited, FireLink and FiReControl; and if he will make a statement. [296547]

Mr. Malik: The proposal that in future the national procurement function for the fire and rescue service should be carried out in a larger body also responsible for the management of the service contracts for the Fire and Resilience Programme, once they become operational, was based on an analysis of the options for the future delivery of these roles. The basis for the proposal and the options considered were in the Department's consultation paper on Fire and Resilience Programme In-Service Management published on 13 July 2009.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses were received in respect of the consultation which closed on 5 October, on merging the functions of Firebuy Limited, FireLink and FiReControl into one body; and if he will make a statement. [296548]

Mr. Malik: The Department received 39 responses to the Fire and Resilience Programme In-Service Management Consultation.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the In-Service Management Consultation document in respect of the amalgamation into a new body of the existing FiReControl, FireLink and Firebuy functions; and if he will make a statement. [296550]

Mr. Malik: The consultation on the options for the in-service management of the Fire and Resilience Programme was published on the Department's website in July 2009. A copy will be placed in the Library. The Department will publish its response following the consultation later in the year.

Fire Services: Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations were closed in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Shropshire in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [295993]

Mr. Malik: This information, which is reported in financial year returns to the Department, is shown in the following table.

Number of fire stations closed in England, the West Midlands region and Shropshire, 2006-07 to 2008-09

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England	7	1	0
West Midlands	1	0	0
Shropshire	0	0	0

Source:
Annual returns to CLG.

Fire Services: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from Cumbria County Council on the Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service. [295870]

Mr. Malik: In the last six months, CLG has received responses from Cumbria fire and rescue service to formal consultations on the transfer of New Dimension assets to fire and rescue services and on the Formula Grant Review.

CLG has also received a letter from Councillor Gary Strong of Cumbria county council about the FiReControl project.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect the implementation of the FiReControl programme will have on frontline fire and rescue services in Copeland. [295875]

Mr. Malik: The FiReControl network will ensure that Copeland firefighters and control room staff are supported by the best technology to do their job.

Firefighters will have real-time safety information and incident details through in-cab data terminals; automatic tracking of fire appliances will enable the nearest appropriate appliances to be sent to an incident; and emergency calls from the public will be automatically located.

The network of control centres will share calls and data across the national network to manage even the highest call volumes to provide a more resilient service.

Fire Services: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether participation in the Fire Service High Potential Development Programme is part of the programme of enhanced diversity targets agreed between his Department and fire and rescue services; and if he will make a statement. [296522]

Mr. Malik: Participation in the pilot High Potential Leadership Programme is a voluntary commitment by a limited number of fire and rescue services. The Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy 2008-18 recognises the part that such a programme can play in ensuring that equality and diversity are fully integrated into all aspects of the service. The programme is not, however, linked to the more stretching targets agreed between the Department and fire and rescue services.

Fire Services: Equality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* targets and *(b)* guidance his Department has issued to fire and rescue authorities on diversity and equality in their employment of staff. [295694]

Mr. Malik: In May 2008 Communities and Local Government published the Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy 2008-18 which provides guidance and direction for fire and rescue authorities on equality and diversity issues. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework requires fire and rescue authorities to implement the provisions of the strategy.

The strategy includes the requirement for each fire and rescue authority to have recruitment, progression and retention targets for its service. The targets apply to women in the operational sector and to people from minority ethnic background across all sectors of the service. The targets to be met by each fire and rescue authority, as set out in the strategy, are:

> By 2013 a minimum of 15 per cent. of new entrants to the operational sector to be women;
>
> By 2013 recruitment of minority ethnic staff across the whole organisation to be at the same percentage as the minority ethnic representation in the local working population, and
>
> By 2013 parity in rates of retention and progression between minority ethnic and white employees, and between men and women.

In December 2008 Communities and Local Government invited all fire and rescue authorities to submit proposals for their recruitment targets. Their targets were published by Communities and Local Government in the Fire and Rescue Service Annual Equality and Diversity Report in March 2009.

Fire Services: Equipment

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will introduce national standards for fire service equipment. [295739]

Mr. Malik: There are existing British, European and international standards which ensure that fire service equipment is fit for purpose. Except for national resilience purposes, it is for each fire and rescue authority to determine the equipment needed to meet its requirements.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* originally estimated costs, *(b)* costs to date and *(c)* estimated future costs of implementing the FiReControl programme are. [295869]

Mr. Malik: The basic initial costs and timescales of implementing the FiReControl project, as originally estimated in 2004, were £120 million. Following more detailed work, project costs were updated to include funding to fire and rescue authorities for local and regional implementation activity, the costs of the regional control centre building leases and the costs of equipment to be installed in every fire station in England to support improved mobilisation.

The expenditure to date on the project is approximately £190 million. The estimated full cost of implementing FiReControl is £420 million.

Fire Services: Manpower

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Fire Service firefighters were employed by the Fire and Rescue Service in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Shropshire in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [295994]

Mr. Malik: The number of firefighters employed in fire and rescue services for *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands region and *(c)* Shropshire are shown in the following table.

Number of firefighters in fire and rescue services in England, the West Midlands region and Shropshire, 2006-08

	31 March 2006		*31 March 2007*		*31 March 2008*	
	Whole-time	*Retained duty system*	*Whole-time*	*Retained duty system*	*Whole-time*	*Retained duty system*
England	30,708	13,927	30,804	14,212	30,824	14,166
West Midlands	3,078	1,241	3,171	1,252	3,214	1,279
Shropshire	203	293	215	302	214	325

Source:
Annual returns to CLG.

Fire Services: Standards

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will introduce nationwide standardisation of fire service operational procedures. [295740]

Mr. Malik: The Government have produced operational guidance for use by fire and rescue services (FRSs) for over 60 years.

The guidance identifies generic risks associated with resolving fire and other operational incidents. However it is for each fire and rescue authority as the employer to utilise the guidance as it sees fit and to ensure safe systems of work for each risk to which its employees are likely to be exposed.

The use of the guidance and the specialist nature of FRSs' work mean that there is a significant similarity in the operational procedures employed by FRSs in England. This is especially the case in safety critical activity such as incident command, control of the use of breathing apparatus and radio communications.

In some specialist functions of FRS activity, such as the Government's urban search and rescue provision, it is expected that teams from across the UK will work together to resolve events. In such cases the guidance is more prescriptive to ensure interoperability.

Fire Services: Training

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will introduce national standards for the training provided to firefighters. [295738]

Mr. Malik: Fire and rescue authorities are responsible for the training of their firefighters. The integrated personal development system, which is underpinned by national occupational standards, provides a framework for the provision of training nationally while allowing individual fire and rescue services to tailor their training provision to meet the requirements of their integrated risk management plan.

FiReBuy: Public Appointments

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria were used in selecting the six individuals shortlisted for the vacant post of Chairman of Firebuy Limited; and if he will make a statement. [296549]

Mr. Malik: The criteria used for shortlisting the candidates for the Chair were published in the person specification for the role which formed part of the application pack for candidates.

The essential criteria were:

Track record of leadership at a senior level in a corporate environment in the public or private sector.

Experience of leading a change management process, establishing and maintaining strategic direction.

Track record of corporate, commercial and financial management in a public and/or private sector environment.

Experience of effective corporate governance and risk management.

Track record of working in an environment with a wide stakeholder community representing a variety of interests.

The desirable criteria were:

Knowledge of the emergency services.

Knowledge and experience of public sector procurement, contract and service management.

An understanding about the issues involved in working within a political environment.

The selection process is currently under way and we hope to appoint the chair in November.

Fires

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of domestic fires caused as a result of the operation of *(a)* electric ovens, *(b)* gas ovens, *(c)* microwave ovens and *(d)* central and water heating systems in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and how many of these fires resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) non-fatal injuries. [293194]

Mr. Malik: Fire and Rescue Services share with the Department details of incidents attended, including of domestic fires. Since 1 April 2009, Fire and Rescue Services have been reporting using the Incident Recording System (IRS). Previously, data were collected according to the Fire Data Report (FDR) form. Details of each system can be found in Incident Recording System Questions and Lists, and Fire Data Report Code List respectively. Both documents are in the Library of the House.

The numbers of fires, fatalities and non-fatal injuries for the most recent 12 month period available are shown in the following table.

Fire, fatalities and non-fatal casualties by selected sources of ignition, England, 2008[1]

Source of ignition	*Fires*	*Fatal casualties*	*Non-fatal casualties*
(a) Electric ovens	9,604	12	1,993

Fire, fatalities and non-fatal casualties by selected sources of ignition, England, 2008[1]

Source of ignition	*Fires*	*Fatal casualties*	*Non-fatal casualties*
(b) Gas ovens	3,788	10	784
(c) Microwave ovens	977	0	173
(d) Central and water heating systems	760	6	115

[1] Provisional.

Homelessness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities with no known or suspected rough sleeper problem are not required by his Department to conduct rough sleeper counts. [294945]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since 1998 local authorities conduct rough sleeper counts in accordance with Communities and Local Government's "Guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping". Broadly if a local authority feels that it has developed a rough sleeping problem, and in particular it estimates that there may be more than 10 rough sleepers in the area, then it should count.

There have been significant and sustained cuts in the numbers of people who are living rough on the streets since we established a baseline of 1,850 rough sleepers in 1998. The 2009 headline figure for rough sleeping based on local authority counts is 465 and set out in the table. Since 2009 this no longer includes estimates.

Local authority	*Region*	*Date*	*Number*
Westminster	L	26 March 2009	110
City of London	L	20 March 2009	38
Tower Hamlets	L	1 May 2009	17
Southwark	L	3 April 2009	15
Kensington and Chelsea	L	25 November 2008	13
Lambeth	L	26 March 2009	13
Haringey	L	27 November 2008	11
Bath	SW	3 April 2009	10
Bedford	E	23 May 2008	10
Hackney	L	20 March 2009	10
Hillingdon	L	19 November 2008	10
Chester	NW	27 March 2008	9
Liverpool	NW	21 April 2009	9
Manchester	NW	28 November 2008	9
Hammersmith and Fulham	L	25 November 2008	8
Norwich	E	7 May 2009	8
Herefordshire	WM	24 September 2008	7
Hull	Y and H	19 My 2009	7
Worthing	SE	21 November 2008	7
Bournemouth	SW	28 October 2008	6
Brighton and Hove	SE	4 March 2009	6
Camden	L	22 April 2009	6
Leeds	Y&H	18 April 2008	6
Peterborough	E	28 May 2008	6
Reading	SE	14 May 2008	6
Redbridge	L	28 May 2008	6
Carrick	SW	31 March 2009	5
Exeter	SW	8 May 2009	5
Kirklees	Y and H	21 November 2008	5
Oxford	SE	21 November 2008	5
Watford	E	25 March 2009	5
Birmingham	WM	28 November 2008	4
Brent	L	7 March 2008	4
Coventry	WM	26 March 2009	4
Derby	EM	12 May 2008	4
Milton Keynes	SE	28 November 2008	4
North Devon	SW	18 March 2009	4
Plymouth	SW	25 November 2008	4
Winchester	SE	18 November 2008	4
Bradford	Y&H	21 November 2008	3
North Cornwall	SW	31 March 2009	3
Restormel	SW	31 March 2009	3
Salisbury	SW	9 October 2008	3
Sheffield	Y and H	7 May 2008	3

Local authority	*Region*	*Date*	*Number*
Sunderland	NE	26 November 2008	3
Crewe and Nantwich	NW	27 March 2008	2
Lancaster	NW	6 March 2009	2
Lewisham	L	27 March 2008	2
Macclesfield	NW	27 March 2008	2
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	29 April 2008	2
Northampton	EM	16 April 2009	2
Waltham Forest	L	24 April 2009	2
York	Y and H	29 April 2009	2
Bromley	L	13 March 2009	1
Calderdale	Y and H	15 May 2008	1
Cambridge	E	3 October 2008	1
Fenland	E	9 September 2008	1
Halton	NW	27 March 2008	1
Isle of Wight	SE	4 April 2009	1
Penwith	SW	31 March 2009	1
Portsmouth	SE	22 May 2009	1
Rotherham	Y and H	16 September 2008	1
Teignbridge	SW	26 March 2008	1
Wakefield	Y and H	22 May 2009	1
Caradon	SW	31 March 2009	0
Congleton	NW	27 March 2008	0
Ellesmere Port and Neston	NW	27 March 2008	0
Gateshead	NE	15 April 2009	0
Hertsmere	E	22 May 2009	0
Kerrier	SW	31 March 2008	0
Newham	L	7 March 2008	0
North Lincs	Y and H	16 October 2008	0
North Somerset	SW	15 May 2008	0
Staffordshire Moorlands	WM	22 April 2008	0
Vale Royal	NW	27 March2008	0
Warrington	NW	7 March 2008	0
Total from street counts			465

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless people there were in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [295371]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

The regional and national figures for the number of applicants accepted as owed a main duty and the number of households in temporary accommodation, for each financial year since 1998-99 can be found in Tables 3 and 7 of the latest Statistical Release. The equivalent 1997-98 figures can be found in earlier additions of the Release, accessible from this link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data are not collected at constituency level. The Mid-Bedfordshire constituency falls within the local authorities of Bedford and Central Bedfordshire (which, prior to 1 April 2009, comprised Mid-Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire). Data are not reported at county level. Bedfordshire includes the following local authorities:

Bedford;
Luton; and
Central Bedfordshire.

For local authority level acceptance and temporary accommodation figures between 1997-98 and 2008-09 (including those listed above), I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W.

Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night, and local authority data and count guidance can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/roughsleeping/

Homelessness: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of 18 to 21 year olds who are in *(a)* homeless, *(b)* emergency and *(c)* night shelter accommodation. [295830]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. The data include households housed in temporary accommodation by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. There were 60,230 households in temporary accommodation on 30th June 2009, 19 per cent. lower than the same date last year and 41 per cent. lower than the peak in 2004. We do not collect centrally the age of applicants in temporary accommodation households and therefore it is not possible to identify the number of 18 to 21-year-olds in these households.

Data about the number of 18 to 21-year-olds who access housing related support services, funded by the Supporting People programme are submitted by providers of housing related support services on a quarterly basis. This data source includes information on those who access 'direct access' services. 'Direct access' services are defined as night shelters, emergency or crisis accommodation, including direct access hostels, and other homeless hostels. Therefore Supporting People data does not separate out 'emergency' from 'night shelter' accommodation.

Housing Benefit: Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Travellers are eligible for housing benefit under the local housing allowance scheme when residing on sites which do not have planning permission. [295866]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

Entitlement to housing benefit relies on a person being liable for rent on their home. Those who live in caravans or mobile homes do not have their housing benefit worked out based on the local housing allowance rules.

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built on surplus public sector land in each of the last five years. [296577]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1346-47W.

Housing: Hertfordshire

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* East Herts district are recorded with each individual (i) dwellinghouse code and (ii) value significant code, including each code for (A) type, (B) number of rooms, (C) number of bedrooms, (D) number of bathrooms, (E) number of floors, (F) floor level, (G) parking, (H) garaging, (I) conservatory type, (J) age, (K) outbuilding and (L) modernisation, according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [296815]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwellinghouse code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, have been placed in the Library of the House.

Land Use: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many acres of *(a)* brownfield and *(b)* greenfield land there were in Norwich North constituency in (i) 1997, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2009. [296019]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information at constituency level could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mayors

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on consultations on the establishment of procedures for the direct election of mayors. [295902]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department issued guidance to local authorities in 2000 on the consultation requirements for changing to executive governance arrangements, including for the establishment of a directly elected mayor. While the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 established new arrangements for changing to governance models, including moving to a directly elected mayor, we have issued no further such guidance. Within the statutory arrangements it is for each council to decide its own consultation process.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Billericay of 20 July and 5 October 2009 regarding the Travellers' site at Dale Farm, Crays Hill. [297004]

Mr. Malik: I have now replied to the hon. Member's correspondence.

Property: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of empty properties in rural areas in each year since 1997; [293211]

(2) how many social rented homes in rural areas have been sold in each year since 1997. [293212]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the total number of vacant dwellings in rural areas in each year since 1997.

	Vacant dwellings in rural areas
1997	233,350
1998	223,470
1999	244,200
2000	243,200
2001	227,190
2002	238,070
2003	232,690
2004	228,560
2005	245,480

	Vacant dwellings in rural areas
2006	254,960
2007	262,680
2008	280,710

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns from local authorities for 1 April 1997 to 2001; Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities for November 2002 to 2004 and October 2005 to 2008.

Of the 47,360 increase in the number of vacant dwellings between 1997 and 2008, 90 per cent. occurred between 2002 and 2008. Over this period, growth in the number of short term vacants accounts for the entire increase. Short term vacants are defined as being empty for less than six months. Short term vacancies occur for a variety of reasons including repairs, maintenance, housing sales and other transactions. The 2007-08 increase in vacant dwellings was expected as a result of the current economic climate.

The Empty Homes Agency has found that rural local authorities are less active in bringing empty homes back into use than urban authorities. Their research shows that an empty property is three times more likely to be brought back into use if it is in an urban area compared to a rural area.

Total vacant dwellings reported by local authorities through Council Taxbase returns include long term and short term empty dwellings.

The following table shows the number of social homes sold to sitting tenants in rural areas in each year since 1997-98:

	Local authority homes sold[1]	*Registered social landlord homes sold*[2]	*Total social homes sold*
1997-98	12,820	n/a	n/a
1998-99	11,420	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	15,250	n/a	n/a
2000-01	12,840	n/a	n/a
2001-02	12,450	4,070	16,520
2002-03	14,590	5,040	19,640
2003-04	13,950	5,660	19,610
2004-05	8,990	3,510	12,500
2005-06	5,190	1,730	6,920
2006-07	3,430	1,600	5,020
2007-08	2,080	1,100	3,180
2008-09	480	370	840

[1] The local authority social housing sales figures are from quarterly P1B returns from local authorities to CLG. The majority of these sales are made through the right to buy scheme, but a small number of other local authority sales are also included.

[2] The registered social landlord (RSL) social housing sales figures are from the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR), and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Investment Management System (IMS). The RSR figures include sales through right to buy, preserved right to buy and right to acquire. The IMS figures include sales through Social HomeBuy. Some RSL sales, such as shared equity sales and disposals to the private sector, and all RSL sales prior to 2001-02, are not available at local authority level and have been excluded from the figures.

All rural figures are calculated based on the DEFRA Rural Definition (2004).

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the revision of the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy in relation to undertaking strategic environment assessments of the proposals to remove green belt protection and introduce urban extensions. [292581]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government have decided to carry out additional sustainability appraisal work to appraise alternatives to the Areas of Search for strategic housing, business and other development introduced or amended by the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the RSS. The Government wish to be satisfied that reasonable alternatives to these proposals were tested by the Sustainability Appraisal published with the Proposed Changes in July 2008. The testing of 'reasonable alternatives' is a requirement of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. We expect this additional work to be completed early in the new year.

In the South West, the removal of green belt protection is only proposed to accommodate strategic developments explicitly proposed in the Regional Spatial Strategy. The effects of the green belt changes will therefore generally be the same as the effects of the developments, and they will be appraised together.

In the light of the Appraisal's findings, the Government will decide what action to take to complete the SW Strategy, which will provide the clarity and certainty about the future framework for growth in the region which all partners are keen to see. It would not be sensible to speculate on what action will be necessary before the findings are available, or how long any action is likely to take.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Government Office for the South West is on requiring local authorities to adopt the proposals of the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy; and what effect his Department's decision to undertake new strategic environmental assessments will have on adoption of the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [292803]

Mr. Ian Austin: Officials in the Government Office for the South West have written to local authorities advising them of the weight to be attached to the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy. My response to the hon. Member's Question 292581 deals with the effect of the decision to carry out additional sustainability appraisal work on adoption of the Strategy.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 145, on the regional spatial strategy, what the nature, duration and timescale will be of the proposed consultation on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [297140]

Mr. Ian Austin: At this time is it not possible to specify the nature, duration or timescale of any consultation but this will be announced in due course.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's 2002 report, Social tenants' access to home working opportunities, commissioned by the Housing Corporation's Innovation and Good Practice programme, have been adopted by the successor bodies to the Housing Corporation to date. [292847]

Mr. Ian Austin: The report, which was part funded by the Housing Corporation's Innovation and Good Practice programme, made a range of recommendations to central and local government and to the housing association sector.

In its Neighbourhood and Community Strategy of October 2006, the Housing Corporation emphasised the value of all housing associations promoting employment opportunities—including residents working from their homes. Home working is also likely to be covered in forthcoming guidance from the Homes and Communities Agency, for example on the development of Local Investment Plans for local authorities and other partners.

The Live-Work Network, which was set up following the publication of the report, has been commissioned by Government to conduct a national study of the potential of local 'hubs' to support people who work from home. This work is being supported by the Homes and Communities Agency, the Commission for Rural Communities and CLG.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from the Local Government Association in respect of funding decisions affecting the Decent Homes Improvement Programme in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [296887]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Local Government Association wrote to the Housing Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), on 27 July in respect of the funding decisions that the Minister had taken in the context of the Housing Pledge announcement of 17 July.

Supporting People Programme

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* special needs provision and *(b)* domestic violence services in (i) Luton and (ii) England of reductions in Supporting People budgets; and if he will make a statement. [291826]

Mr. Malik: The provision of Supporting People housing related support services, including special needs and domestic violence provision, is a matter for local authorities to determine based on local needs and priorities. CLG do not specify what portion of the SP budget should be allocated to individual client groups. However CLG, through annual expenditure returns and quarterly Supporting People local systems data, monitor the expenditure and number of available services funded from the Supporting People programme.

Based on the expenditure information provided annually by local authorities, expenditure on domestic violence services in England has increased in each of the three years ended March 2008. In Luton, the number of places (Household units) reported to CLG at quarter end 31st March for this period has remained unchanged.

For special needs services the number of places for (1) Luton and (2) England is set out in the following table.

Number of special needs places[1]

Date quarter ending 31 March each year	*Luton*	*England*
2008	109	43,114
2007	97	45,980
2006	114	44,155

[1] Special needs for the purpose of the above includes learning, sensory and physical disability services.

Tenant Services Authority: Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Tenant Services Authority's National Conversation is expected to close. [297439]

John Healey: The Tenant Services Authority's National Conversation ended on 8 September.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings his Department 's officials have had with Philip Brown Associates on matters relating to policy or planning decisions on Travellers in the last 12 months. [295868]

Mr. Malik: There is no record of the Department's officials having had any meetings with Philip Brown Associates on matters relating to policy or planning decisions on Travellers in the last 12 months.

TREASURY

Bank Mellat

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 October 2009, *Official Report,* columns 1-2WS, on delegated legislation (counter-terrorism), to which UN-listed organisations Bank Mellat has provided services; what indications his Department gave to Bank Mellat of its concerns prior to 12 October 2009; what concerns his Department has raised relating to those UN-listed organisations; and which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* activities supported by Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines have led to the imposition of restrictions on its trading activities. [296665]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In light of the sensitive nature of the information, we are unable to give further details of the organisations Bank Mellat has provided services to, or organisations and activities supported by IRISL which were relevant to the issuing of the direction.

Both target entities were informed of the decision by letter and fax within hours of laying the order in Parliament.

The UK Government have expressed their concerns on Iranian nuclear activities to the Iranian Administration, most recently during talks in Geneva in early October.

Banks: Iceland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the government of Iceland on the effect on UK *(a)* savers, *(b)* charities, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* police forces of the financial situation in that country; and if he will make a statement. [297182]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Banks: Loans

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on encouraging the provision of mortgages and lending by UK banks to existing borrowers who have not defaulted on their mortgages; and if he will make a statement. [296220]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are taking action to ensure mortgages continue to be available for creditworthy borrowers. On 19 January 2009, the Government announced a package of measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. Further information is available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm

These measures build on those announced on 8 October last year.

On 19 October 2009, the FSA published its Mortgage Market Review, which sets out proposals to help ensure a mortgage market that is sustainable for all participants. This document is available on the FSA's website:

www.fsa.gov.uk

Child Benefit

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has for future increases in the level of child benefit. [296784]

Mr. Timms: Child benefit rates increased ahead of indexation in January this year, rising to £20 a week for the first child. Overall, child benefit has risen 25 per cent. in real terms since 1997. Decisions on child benefit rates are announced in the Budget and Pre-Budget Report.

Child Benefit: Grandparents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases child benefit payments are being made to grandparents of the child to which the benefit relates. [297247]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. HM Revenue and Customs does not record the nature of the relationship between the child and the child benefit claimant where the person making the claim is the child's carer and not their parent.

Child Tax Credit

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the backlog of child benefit payments was in each month in each of the last five years. [296443]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. All payments of child benefit are generated automatically with the vast majority being paid by bank transfer. For information on the time it takes to pay a new child benefit claim I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns, 1046-47W.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has for future increases in the levels of child tax credits. [296782]

Mr. Timms: The Government increased the child element of the child tax credit by £240 in Budget 2008, and by another £150 in Budget 2009, when the Government also announced that the child element will increase by £20 above indexation in April 2010. Overall, the child element has risen by £790 since its introduction. Decisions on increases in the levels of tax credits are announced in the Budget and Pre-Budget Report.

Child Tax Credit: Fraud

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many cases of fraudulent claims of child tax credit have been investigated in each year since child tax credit was introduced; and in how many cases the fraud investigated involved the *(a)* non-existence and *(b)* non-qualifying residential status of the child; [293173]

(2) how many cases of fraudulent claims for child benefit have been investigated in the last five years; and in how many such cases the fraud investigated involved the *(a)* non-existence and *(b)* non-qualifying residential status of the child. [293171]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* For information relating to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) compliance checks on tax credits awards I refer my hon. Friend to the information published in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Reports.

Information for years up to and including 2007-08 can be found in table 6 on page R15 of the 2007-08 report published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

Similar information for 2008-09 is included in table 33 on page R41 of the Standard Report published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

HMRC has made and closed around 62,000 child benefit interventions in the five years to April 2009 but that figure cannot be broken down to reflect the specific categories of fraud requested, as HMRC's systems do not capture information in this way.

Providing further information on this point might assist those attempting to defraud the system.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [297289]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury originally purchased its Flickr channel on 5 November 2008 at a cost of £15. We have just renewed the channel for a further two years at a cost of £29. There are no further costs associated with maintaining the Flickr channel.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* full- and *(b)* part-time employees his Department had each year since 1997. [297394]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on HM Treasury (HMT) employees is published and can be found in HMT's Annual Reports, available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/dep_perf_reports_index.htm

EC Budget: Contributions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the UK's net contribution to the EU budget in 2010-11. [297187]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 150-51W.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to respond to the interim advice given by Sir John Chadwick on Equitable Life. [294929]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A response was sent to Sir John Chadwick on 27 October.

Financial Services: Iran

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to restrict UK financial and credit institutions from dealing with Iran; what steps he plans to take in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [296561]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury issued an advisory notice to the financial sector on 11 March 2009 advising that

> "All UK businesses regulated under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 whether financial institutions or other regulated persons should treat transactions associated with Iran as situations that by their nature can present a higher risk of money laundering or terrorist financing, and which therefore require increased scrutiny and enhanced due diligence. Other persons authorised by the Financial Services Authority should also take this advice into account in their systems and controls to counter financial crime, and take appropriate actions to minimise associated risks."

Other advisories were issued by the Treasury regarding the risks posed by Iran on 20 October 2008 and 3 July 2009.

HM Treasury used the powers under schedule 7 to the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 on 12 October 2009 to require all UK financial and credit institutions to cease transactions and business relationships with two Iranian entities—Bank Mellat and the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines—on the basis of identified activities of concern that these entities were carrying out. HM Treasury will consider further use of the powers in schedule 7 to the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 where they are a proportionate response to a risk to the UK's national interests.

As the Prime Minister has set out, the UK is prepared to implement sanctions against Iran beyond the UN and EU measures already in place as appropriate if it does not engage meaningfully with the international community.

Fuels: Scotland

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on proposals for a fuel duty derogation for island communities in Scotland. [295711]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Decisions on fuel duty rates are a matter for the Chancellor as part of the normal Budget and PBR process.

Government Contracts

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government contracts were awarded to companies which were members of the Consulting Association between 2000 and 2009. [297303]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not hold a central record of its suppliers' affiliations to trade bodies and the information could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Income Tax: Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people resident in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland and employed in the Republic of Ireland were liable to pay UK income tax in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [296121]

Mr. Timms: Where a person is resident, ordinarily resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom, they pay tax on their worldwide income and gains in the United Kingdom on an arising basis subject to the application of any double taxation agreement.

Estimated figures for the number of people resident in Northern Ireland and claiming foreign tax credit relief for earned income arising in the Republic of Ireland in 2007-08 derived from a sample of tax returns are provided in the following table. Available information for 2008-09 is not available, as the filing deadlines for this year have not yet passed.

These estimates take into account the improvements made to the self-assessment return for 2007-08, and therefore are not comparable to the answer provided to the hon. Member for Foyle on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 893-94W.

Figures are not available for those who are not ordinarily resident or not domiciled in the UK who can claim to be taxed only on their income from overseas which they bring into or transfer to the UK.

Numbers of individuals claiming foreign tax credit relief for 2007-08 in respect to income from employment, self-employment and other income received from the Republic of Ireland[1]

Constituency of residence	*2007-08*
Belfast East	Under 25
Belfast North	Under 25
Belfast South	50
Belfast West	Under 25
East Antrim	Under 25
East Londonderry	50
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	400
Foyle	250
Lagan Valley	50
Mid Ulster	50
Newry and Armagh	500
North Antrim	Under 25
North Down	50
South Antrim	Under 25
South Down	250
Strangford	50
Upper Bann	50
West Tyrone	250
Total	2,100

[1] Excludes: (a) interest and other income from overseas savings; (b) dividends from foreign companies; (c) overseas pensions, social security benefits and royalties; (d) dividends and other income received by an overseas trust, company or other person abroad; (e) income from land and property abroad; (f) capital gains subject to foreign tax; (g) other overseas income and gains (e.g. gains on disposal of offshore funds, benefit from an overseas trust company or other person abroad, gains on foreign life insurance policies).

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the inheritance tax threshold to £1 million per person and £2 million per couple in each year between 2010-11 and 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [297323]

Mr. Timms: The cost of increasing the inheritance tax threshold to £1 million with effect from April 2010 is estimated at £500 million in 2010-11, £1.2 billion in 2011-12, £1.4 billion in 2012-13 and £1.5 billion in 2013-14.

Forecasts beyond 2013-14 have not been made.

Loans

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the mechanisms other than the use of credit reference agency services by which lenders assess a loan applicant's ability to repay a loan; and if he will hold discussions with the Council of Mortgage Lenders on that matter. [297139]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from and meet with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations and meetings.

Local Government: Loans

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many local authorities in *(a)* Norfolk and *(b)* England have current loans from the Public Works Loan Board; when each loan was taken out; what interest rates are being charged on each; what the term of each loan is; and how much interest has been paid on each to date. [292688]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A complete answer can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

At 31 March 2009, 296 of the 446 principal authorities in England, Scotland and Wales had loans outstanding with the PWLB. A summary of total outstanding loans from the PWLB to Norfolk local authorities is tabled as follows:

	£
Norfolk county council	553,908,510
Norfolk police authority	17,812,899
Great Yarmouth borough council	26,022,968
Norwich city council	70,018,955

A summary of PWLB lending to these local authorities by advance date, interest rate and term has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Total outstanding PWLB debt owed by authorities in England at 31 March 2009 was £40,842,357,987.

Total overall PWLB debt across the UK, at 31 March 2009, was £50,853,477,721 at an average term of 27.4 years and average interest rate of 5.501 per cent.

Mortgages

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to assist those affected by shared appreciation mortgages. [296934]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 23 February 2009 from the Economic Secretary to the Treasury to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and Fife West, (Willie Rennie) *Official Report*, column 322W.

PAYE

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether PAYE is included in the payroll taxes that can be deferred by small businesses facing cash flow difficulties. [295955]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* The Business Payment Support Service was launched on 24 November 2008 to support viable businesses in temporary financial difficulties. Under the scheme tax liabilities that would otherwise be due for payment are included in a time to pay arrangement that provides the business with the opportunity to spread their tax payments over a timetable they can afford. The service covers most taxes and duties including PAYE, income tax, corporation tax, VAT and national insurance.

Further information can be found online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2008/business-payment.htm

Public Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to promote a reform of public services centred on the citizen. [295979]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* Ensuring that public services are centred on the citizen is at the heart of the Government's measures to reform services, and will continue to be our priority.

Our strategy for taking this forward is set out in two recent reports: "Building Britain's Future" and "Working Together—Public Services on Your Side", which cover the actions that the UK Government is taking to move the UK from recession to recovery and forge a new model of economic growth; restore trust and accountability to the political system through democratic reform and renewal; and modernise our public services and national infrastructure.

Much has already been achieved by giving people more choice over services. Now, we are building on this by ensuring that services are more accountable and responsive to citizens through introducing stronger entitlements to core standards in services and giving those who use services greater personal control over them.

Revenue and Customs: Complaints

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors received in each year since 1997; how many of those complaints were upheld in each such year; how many such complaints resulted in a repayment; and if he will make a statement. [296663]

Mr. Timms: Data on complaints received by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and its predecessor Departments are published in the relevant annual reports covering the years stated, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/annual_reps.htm

The number of complaints upheld and partially upheld is only available for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 as follows:

	Upheld	*Partially upheld*
2007-08	32,538	9,541
2008-09	28,346	7,630

Data on the number of upheld or partially upheld cases that result in repayments is available only at disproportionate cost as HMRC's systems do not capture this automatically.

Taxation: Corporate Hospitality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish guidance for businesses in respect of their tax liability for corporate entertainment in lap dancing clubs. [296383]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* HM Revenue and Customs have published guidance on business entertainment on their Business Income Manual at BIM45000 (specific deductions: entertainment), available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/bimmanual/BIM45000.htm

No tax relief is available for client entertaining. The expenses incurred in entertaining clients at lap dancing clubs would not constitute an allowable deduction in computing a company's profits chargeable to corporation tax.

Taxation: Fuel Oil

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the estimated financial value of tax to be collected on the use of recovered fuel oil from the lime manufacturing industry is in the UK over the next three years; [296055]

(2) how much tax has been collected on the use of recovered fuel oil from *(a)* the lime industry, *(b)* the electrical industry and *(c)* the steel industry since the implementation of the tax in November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [296056]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The forecast revenue for 2009-10 from fuel duty is published in table C.6 of the 2009 Financial Statement and Budget Report. This can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_completereport_2520.pdf

Data on receipts from oils duties are published in the National Statistics Hydrocarbon Oils Duties bulletin available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Receipts and forecasts of recovered fuel oil by industry are not available.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will amend the tax credit system to reflect the respective financial contribution by parents who have separated towards the cost of raising their children. [296422]

Mr. Timms: The Government recognise the difficulties separated parents face when sharing responsibility for a child. There is no easy solution, which is why, ideally, parents should themselves reach an arrangement how the financial support provided through child tax credit and child benefit should be divided.

However, where parents cannot reach such an arrangement, the Government believe that the best outcome for the child is achieved by directing support to the family with the main responsibility for caring for the child. As with all aspects of the tax credits system, the issue of shared care is kept under review.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Miss Begg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* tax credit claimants who have received overpayments of the Court of Appeal judgment of 13 October 2009 on the recovery of overpayments of social security benefits through the courts where the claimant is not at fault. [296335]

Mr. Timms: I believe the hon. Member is referring to the Court of Appeal case originally bought by the Child Poverty Action Group about whether the Department for Work and Pensions has the power to recover an overpayment under common-law in addition to their powers under section 71 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (SSAA 1992).

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not enforce recovery of overpayments of child benefit, guardians allowance or the health in pregnancy grant in cases where section 71(1) of the SSAA 1992 is not applicable.

HMRC's powers to recover taxes are statutory. For example, section 28 Tax Credits Act 2002 gives HMRC the power to ask for any overpayment to be repaid. HMRC's policy on how it uses this power is set out in its code of practice 26, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband: Wales

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on meeting the universal broadband commitment contained within the Digital Britain report. [296221]

Mr. Timms: Since my appointment as Minister of State in August, I have not had discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers about the universal broadband commitment. However, officials from this Department and the Welsh Assembly Government have been working together, along with other nations, on the delivery of the universal service commitment for broadband, and will continue to do so.

Construction: Billing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made since February 2009 in ensuring that payments to sub-contractors of tier one contractors on construction projects funded from the public purse are made within 10 days of receipt of invoice. [296254]

Mr. McFadden: The Department is engaged in a range of activity to ensure (i) payment practices in the construction sector are improved, (ii) public sector contractors are paid on time and (iii) public sector contractors pay their own suppliers on time.

Poor payment practices in the construction industry give rise to substantial additional financing and transaction costs. More importantly certainty over how much and when payment is made builds trust between supply team members and underpins collaborative working to achieve value for money for clients. That is why Government are committed to a 'Fair Payment Charter' in construction contracts which applies equally between the client and lead contractor and throughout the supply chain. To ensure effective and equitable cash flow for all those involved, all contracts will provide for regular payments and have payment periods not exceeding30 days.

In October 2008 the Prime Minister committed all central Government Departments to pay invoices within ten days. We have made good progress and, as of September 2009, 19 out of every 20 invoices are being paid within ten days. Some £59 billion of payments were made within 10 days between June and September 2009.

The Government model contract includes a requirement for contractors to pay their own suppliers within 30 days and all Departments have recently been asked to (i) remind suppliers of their contractual obligations, (ii) undertake compliance checking and (iii) secure supplier support for the Prompt Payment Code.

Copyright: Internet

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the effect on the levels of employment in the creative industries of unlawful file sharing; and what assessment he has made of its likely effect in the next three years. [296350]

Mr. Timms: The UK creative industries represent a large and complex part of the economy. The most recent estimates are that it accounts for 6.4 per cent. of GVA. However the sector is made up of over 13 different industries including music, film, and business software, but also sectors such as architecture that are not impacted by file-sharing.

Of those sectors where file-sharing is an issue, there are a range of factors which influence the level of employment and it has not been possible to arrive at any authoritative estimate of the impact that file-sharing has on employment to date or over the next three years.

Departmental Aviation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many flights within Great Britain officials of his Department took in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [296551]

Mr. McFadden: Following a machinery of government change the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed in June 2009. The figures below relate to the Departments before the merger.

The amount spent and number of flights by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform within Great Britain for the period 2008-09 was:

Number of flights—1,035

Spend—£183,446

The amount spent and number of flights by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills within Great Britain for the period 2008-09 was:

Number of flights—152

Spend—£31,331

Figures are for the ex Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) part of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) only. Under a shared service arrangement the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) administers the account on behalf of DIUS to its former Department for Education and Skills (DfES) staff. To isolate the DfES figures would incur disproportionate costs.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code and departmental staff handbooks.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 447W, on departmental video conferencing, what the cost was of installing the state-of-the-art video conferencing and telepresence facilities in Kingsgate House. [297107]

Mr. McFadden: The costs for the now Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, of installing the video conferencing and telepresence facilities in Kingsgate House were as follows:

(a) Video Conferencing—£286,000 (this included all equipment and links, set up costs and necessary security).

(b) Telepresence Facility—£434,000 (this included all equipment, links, security firewalls and implementation costs.

Dyslexia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students diagnosed with *(a)* dyslexia, *(b)* dyspraxia and *(c)* dyslexia/dyspraxia and who received (i) one to 11 and (ii) 12 or more hours of learning support per academic term were awarded each level of degree qualification in the last five years. [296447]

Mr. Lammy: Information on higher education students who are diagnosed with dyspraxia or who are in receipt of learning support is not held centrally.

The numbers of first degree qualifiers who were recorded as having dyslexia in the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record are provided in the table as an alternative. This information is self-reported: therefore a student may choose not to share information about his/her disability.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from HESA in January 2010.

UK domicile first degree qualifiers[1] with dyslexia[2] by degree classification UK higher education institutions academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	Degree classification				
Academic year	*First class honours*	*Upper second class honours*	*Lower second class honours*	*Third class honours/ pass*	*Unclassified*
2003/04	700	3,855	3,215	680	455
2004/05	890	4,525	3,600	755	515
2005/06	1,055	5,105	3,895	865	585
2006/07	1,210	5,770	4,335	1,020	755
2007/08[3]	1,545	6,615	4,795	1,195	705

[1] Covers qualifiers from full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Dyslexia is part of the HESA Student Record field 'Disability' which records the type of disability that a student has, on the basis of the student's own self-assessment.

[3] Figures for 2007/08 refer to the category 'A specific learning difficulty e.g. dyslexia' in the 'Disability' field and are not directly comparable to previous years

Note:

Figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Employment: EC Law

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have held with the British Chamber of Commerce on a date for implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive. [294852]

Mr. McFadden: Since October 2008, when the EU Agency Workers Directive was agreed, my officials have met a wide range of organisations to discuss implementation of the Directive. This includes national consultation events held in London and the regions as part of the public consultation exercise held between 8 May and 31 July 2009. Officials have also had a number of bilateral discussions with representatives of organisations representing workers, hirers and agencies, including the British Chambers of Commerce, to explore specific issues arising from the consultation paper in more detail.

Higher Education: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students from Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency awaiting *(a)* a decision on and *(b)* payments of their student support for 2009-10. [293533]

Mr. Lammy: This answer is based on data provided by the Student Loans Company as at 18 October about applications being processed by Student Finance England (SFE).

1,530 Student Finance applications were received from students in Bexleyheath and Crayford. 120 of these applications have been assessed as ineligible or the application has been withdrawn by the student or an application has been started via the online application process but not completed.

1,170 have been approved for payment but for 90 of these SFE is awaiting confirmation from universities that these students have registered on their courses before payment is released.

140 applications, for new and returning students, are still being processed.

A further 100 applications have been received via the online application process and have been approved, but Student Finance England is awaiting the return of a signed declaration form from these applicants.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he intends to respond to the letter of 26 August 2009 from Cambridge University Eco Racing. [296918]

Mr. Lammy: The Minister for Science and Innovation responded to the hon. Member on 30 October. I apologise for the delay.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to increase the national minimum wage. [296780]

Mr. McFadden: The Government make decisions on National Minimum Wage rates based on recommendations from the Low Pay Commission. We have asked the Low Pay Commission to submit their next report by the end of February 2010. We will consider their recommendations carefully once that report has been received.

Public Transport: France

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations his Department has received from UK transport operators on access to the public transport system in France for overseas transport operators. [297235]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) receives regular representations from UK transport operators and is in regular contact with such companies regarding opportunities in the French transport sector. UKTI has an international business specialist for rail, seconded from industry, to work on such issues.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to the French Government on access for overseas operators to bid for contracts in the public transport system in France; and if he will make a statement. [297236]

Ian Lucas: Both the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Transport work with EU partners to maintain and develop an open and fair Single European Market. The Government are working with French authorities on issues of market access and UK Trade and Investment will continue to work with UK companies looking for opportunities in France.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assistance his Department has given to companies in the UK transport sector seeking to win contracts in France. [297239]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment works constantly with UK companies in the transport sector seeking to win contracts in France and has held many events to introduce UK suppliers to the French transport sector.

Science: Higher Education

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many science departments in institutions of higher education have closed in each of the last 10 years. [296536]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* We do not have a central record of the number of science departments in higher education institutions. Appropriate academic structures in HE—such as departments, schools and faculties—are determined by each institution.

Student numbers are taken as a more reliable indicator for the health of science. These numbers are growing encouragingly. Further details on numbers of science students can be found on the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs

Spaceflight: EC Action

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the future of EU space projects. [297096]

Mr. Lammy: In May earlier this year I attended the sixth Space Council of European Ministers with responsibility for space. The main topics of discussion at Space Council were the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security initiative (GMES) and the contribution of space to innovation and competitiveness in the context of the European Economic Recovery Plan.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the UK is contributing to the European Space Agency in 2009-10. [297098]

Mr. Lammy: On current estimates, in 2009-10 the UK will contribute €266,766,518 to the European Space Agency.

Spaceflight: Research

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the European Union, Brazil, India, China, the US and Russia on cooperation in international space programmes. [297095]

Mr. Lammy: In May earlier this year I attended the sixth Space Council of European Ministers with responsibility for space, which included discussions on the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security initiative (GMES).

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what UK space projects the Government is *(a)* fully and *(b)* partially funding. [297097]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are fully funding the two UK space projects: Topsat—a technology demonstrator small satellite launched at the end of 2006, and Starbrook—a system for monitoring satellites in geostationary and other orbits.

The Government are also partially funding the Disaster Monitoring Constellation UK space project.

In addition, the Government are fully funding a number of discrete instruments or experiments on multi-national space projects, and the MOD continues to fund existing space-related capabilities including Skynet, RAF Fylingdales and the Space Operations Coordination Centre.

Street Trading

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the consultation document on street trading and pedlary legislation will be published. [296922]

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to consult on street trading by pedlars with a view to the reform of the Pedlars Acts 1871 and 1881. [296716]

Kevin Brennan: We intend to publish in November 2009.

Students: Disabled

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration the review of the Student Loans Company, headed by Professor Sir Deian Hopkin will give to the effect on disabled students of late payment of loans and grants. [296241]

Mr. Lammy: Professor Hopkin's review will look at the Student Loans Company's operations for funding students in England in academic year 2009/10, and the plans for academic year 2010/11, including an assessment of the circumstances which led to any delays in responding to inquiries, assessing evidence, carrying out mean-tested assessments, and providing specific financial support to disabled students.

The purpose of the review is to identify the lessons to be learned so that the service is run efficiently and effectively in academic year 2010/11 and beyond.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* all disabled students and *(b)* disabled students entitled to disabled students' allowance of the timing of payment of student loans and grants for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [296242]

Mr. Lammy: As part of its policy to widen participation in higher education, the Government give generous financial support to disabled students. The Government are aware of concerns expressed about delays in providing that support this academic year. These will be investigated in the review of lessons to be learned by the Student Loans Company, led by Professor Sir Deian Hopkin. Government-funded arrangements are in place to ensure that universities and colleges can support disabled students if there are delays in their assessments or payments.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the review headed by Professor Sir Deian Hopkin on the Student Loans Company to report to the Secretary of State; and whether the report of the review is to be published. [296235]

Mr. Lammy: Mr. John Goodfellow, Chairman of the Student Loans Company, and I have asked Professor Hopkin for an interim report of his review into the company's operations of funding English students in academic year 2009/10 by the end of November. A final report will follow which will be published.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints on the operations of the Student Loans Company his Department has received in the latest period for which figures are available. [296484]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company is responsible for responding to complaints about its operations. Complaints received by the Department are forwarded to the company for resolution. During this academic year's processing cycle, which began in February, the Company has received 1,445 official complaints. This represents 0.13 per cent. of all applications registered.

Temporary Employment

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of temporary and agency workers in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and (d) Northern Ireland. [297400]

Mr. McFadden: The number of temporary agency workers in each devolved Administration and Government Office region is provided in the following table:

Distribution of temporary agency workers by region

Region	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Number*[1]
England	89	1,158,000
North East	4	53,000
North West	10	133,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	10	134,000
East Midlands	10	132,000
West Midlands	9	112,000
Eastern	10	135,000
London	15	193,000
South East	14	176,000
South West	7	90,000
Wales	3	43,000
Scotland	6	76,000
Northern Ireland	2	23,000
UK total		1,300,000

[1] APS proportions are applied to the 1.3 million agency workers estimated by SORA/REC. Rounded to nearest 1,000.

Note:

Figures have been rounded.

Source:

ONS' Annual Population Survey April 2008—March 2009, BIS' Survey of Recruitment Agencies (SORA) 2007 and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) 'Census' 2006

Underground Railways: France

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to the European Commission on the policy of the French Government in offering an exclusive contract to operate the Paris Metro to a state-owned monopoly; and if he will make a statement. [297237]

Ian Lucas: Representations to the European Commission on transport policy are the responsibility of the Department for Transport. However, BIS works with EU partners on maintaining an open and fair Single European Market and raises such issues in the context of the functioning of the Single Market.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 3 November 2009

WALES

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296090]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has mail service contracts with Royal Mail and Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294691]

Mr. Hain: My Department has spent the following on overnight accommodation while overseas in each of the last three years:

		£
	Ministers	*Officials*
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	83.86	899.72
2008-09	0	0

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cannabis

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people of each nationality have been charged with cultivating cannabis in Northern Ireland in each of the last 24 months. [297169]

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cannabis factories have been discovered in Northern Ireland in each of the last 24 months. [297170]

Paul Goggins: These are operational matters for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply to the hon. Member directly, and I will arrange for a copies of the letters to be placed in the Library of the House.

Criminal Damage Compensation Scheme

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1215-16W, on Criminal Damages Compensation 1997, how many applications under the Criminal Damages (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) 1977 Order were received from the Gaelic Athletic Association in each of the last five years. [297336]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows.

The Gaelic Athletic Association

	Number
2004-05	2
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	7
2009-10 to date	2
Total	11

It is possible that there are other claims relating to GAA property within the Compensation Agency's records which could not be identified and which are not included in the above table.

In cases relating to GAA property claims are usually submitted in the name of trustees who are the legal owners of the property which has been damaged. The trustees' name does not always make reference to the GAA and the Compensation Agency's computer database does not therefore identify these as GAA claims. Since 2008-09 the Compensation Agency has kept a separate manual record of claims relating to GAA property.

Inquiries

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what expenditure his Department has incurred to date on *(a)* the Saville Inquiry, *(b)* the Robert Hamill Inquiry, *(c)* the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry and *(d)* the Billy Wright Inquiry. [297117]

Mr. Woodward: Expenditure by the Northern Ireland Office to the end of September 2009 on funding the public inquiries is as follows:

	£ million
Bloody Sunday Inquiry	[1]153
Robert Hamill Inquiry	28
Rosemary Nelson Inquiry	43
Billy Wright Inquiry	28

[1] In addition, £36 million has been paid by the Ministry of Defence in relation to the inquiry.

Prisoners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average number of prisoners being held in each prison in Northern Ireland was during September *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [297124]

Paul Goggins: The average number of prisoners held in each prison is provided in the following table:

				Number
September	*Maghaberry*	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank Wood*	*Total Average*
2007	813	405	245	1,463
2008	859	449	249	1,557
2009	816	404	235	1,455

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Housing

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many Olympic Village flats she expects to have been pre-sold before August 2012. [292516]

Tessa Jowell: As announced in June, agreement has been reached for the sale of 1,379 affordable homes in the Olympic Village development to Triathlon Homes LLP.

Given the current uncertainty in the property market, the sales and marketing strategy for the sale of remaining homes continues to be developed. A precise figure for more pre-2012 sales of homes is therefore not yet available.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of the staff seconded to his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297735]

Ann McKechin: No staff in the Scotland Office formally work from home.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many single payment scheme claims made in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2005 remain outstanding; and if he will make a statement; [297663]

(2) by what date he expects the Rural Payments Agency to have completed payments against Single Farm Payment Scheme claims made in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2005; and if he will make a statement. [297664]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table sets out the number of outstanding claims under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) for scheme years 2005 to 2008 inclusive.

Claims outstanding as at 30 October 2009

Single Payment Scheme year	*Number*
2005	3
2006	6
2007	43
2008	105
Total	157

Most of the 157 SPS claims remaining to be paid involve probate or legal issues, for which information is required from external parties. It is therefore not possible to predict when these payments will be made. Some claims may not receive a payment.

Biofuels

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate the Forestry Commission has made of the future availability of biomass from forests managed by the Commission. [296653]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission maintains comprehensive records of the forests it manages including area, species, age, growth rates and intended management. This data is used to create and update its forecasts of future production.

Current estimates are that the public forest estate in England will produce 1.4 million cubic metres of timber per annum over the next 10 years and that to harvest significantly more would not be sustainable.

In addition to this, other wood material, for example, from small sized coppice or harvesting residues, can be chipped and used as biomass. No precise data is available on the quantities involved.

Further information on the production and use of biomass and timber is included in the Commission's Forestry Statistics booklet. The 2009 edition has just been published and I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred on British Waterways in the last 10 years; and what revenue has been generated by British Waterways from projects and programmes supported by such expenditure in that period. [296864]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The grant in aid provided to British Waterways from DEFRA over the past 10 years is summarised as follows:

	£ million
1999-2000	59
2000-01	64.9
2001-02	61.6
2002-03	71.6
2003-04	76.6
2004-05	59.1
2005-06	62.6
2006-07	55.5
2007-08	55.5
2008-09	[1]61.6

[1] Includes £5 million brought forward from 2010-11.

Source:

DEFRA internal figures.

British Waterways spends DEFRA grant in aid on maintaining and operating the waterways network rather than on specific projects or programmes. British Waterways receives income from maintaining and operating the waterways such as utility wayleaves, boat mooring charges and licence fees. It also receives income from its commercial activities including its property portfolio and funding from third parties for specific restoration and regeneration projects. Total income and funding from third parties over the last 10 years is summarised as follows:

		£ million
	Direct income	*Third party funding*
1999-2000	47.2	51.5
2000-01	62.3	66.6
2001-02	66.2	32.0
2002-03	77.5	27.7
2003-04	80.5	18.4
2004-05	85.2	17.5

		£ million
	Direct income	*Third party funding*
2005-06	92.3	16.4
2006-07	108.9	15.9
2007-08	100.1	48.5
2008-09	108.1	35.3

Source: British Waterways.

Camels

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations govern the on-farm burial of *(a)* camelids and *(b)* companion sheep or cattle. [297027]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On-farm burial has been banned since 2003, when it was introduced as part of a wider set of controls on animal by-products by the EU Animal By-products Regulation 1774/2002. This Regulation is implemented in England by the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005, and by similar legislation in the rest of the UK. The ban applies to both camelids and companion sheep or cattle.

Scientific evidence shows that the degradation process essential to ensure reduction of BSE/TSE infectivity cannot be guaranteed by burial. Even after burial scrapie infected material can persist in the soil for years and present a source of infection. Improper burial can also cause pollution problems and lead to the spread of other diseases that threaten animal and public health.

Coal Fired Power Stations

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of coal were held in stock at each coal-fired power station in *(a)* January and *(b)* June 2009; and how many days supply of coal each figure represents. [296482]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

Data on coal stocks held at individual power stations are commercially sensitive. However we have figures for total stocks held at generators. At the end of January 2009, 13.3 million tonnes of coal were held at UK electricity generators and at the end of June 2009 18.3 million tonnes were held.

These stocks represent theoretical supplies for 63 days and 86 days respectively. The number of running days is for illustrative purposes only and assumes the power station would be operating continuously throughout the period. In reality plants are unlikely to operate non-stop for this length of time.

Common Fisheries Policy

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what priorities the Government has set for reform of the Common Fisheries Policy; and if he will make a statement. [296470]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The European Commission published a Green Paper on CFP reform on 21 April 2009 to trigger the CFP reform process and prompt debate across the EU. That paper presents a Vision for EU fisheries in 2020 and presents ideas for making the Vision happen. Member states are asked to respond to the Green Paper and send these to the Commission by the end of 2009. We are in the process of developing a full UK response.

The UK agrees with the main elements of the Vision which include recovered fish stocks, fish stocks exploited at sustainable levels, a financially robust industry, fishers more involved in technical decision making, better compliance with the rules and improved fisheries governance across the globe.

The UK has similarly laid its own vision for future fisheries—"Fisheries 2027" which is closely aligned with the Commission's Vision. Since then the UK has set out clearly the key elements of that Vision, specifically at the May Council of Fisheries Ministers. These key elements are:

fish stocks within safe biological limits;

a prosperous and efficient fishing industry;

recognition of the contribution of fishing to local communities; and

fisheries management integrated with marine conservation.

Ecological sustainability should be at the heart of delivering that Vision.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296078]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's mail services are provided by the Royal Mail. This arrangement is in place until end March 2011, pending retendering of the pan-government framework arrangements operated currently by Buying Solutions. DEFRA will consider its arrangements with the Royal Mail in light of this exercise.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296008]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has adopted a three stage approach to achieving costs reduction savings under the Operational Efficiency Programme entailing benchmarking of our corporate services, functional reviews informed by the benchmarking results by April 2009 and implementation of review findings. Work under the programme is dovetailing and building upon more general action which the Department has been taking to achieve greater value for money (VFM). For example, our Workplace Support Initiative which will bring much of the DEFRA estate into a single Facilities Management contract saving £6 million per year in 2010-11 compared to the preceding year, rising to £11 million per year by 2013-14. The Department has a wide range of learning and development opportunities many of which underpin the drive for VFM.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294979]

Dan Norris: DEFRA operates one general helpline from which it receives no income.

Animal Health and the Rural Payments Agency, both Agencies of DEFRA, operate the Pets Travel Scheme Helpline and the British Cattle Movement Service Helpline respectively and receive no income from them.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295725]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's Helpline is currently accredited to ISO 9001. Additional and future renewal accreditations will take account of the full range of quality standards relevant to its operation.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289995]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally, the core-Department's expenditure on *(a)* car hire since 2005-06 is:

	£
2005-06	35,003
2006-07	110,279
2007-08	134,803
2008-09	143,644
2009-10 (to date)	50,368

On the train travel and air travel the expenditure is:

		Air	(£) *Train*
July 2006 - March 2007	Staff	1,035,396	1,820,169
	Ministers	71,710	48,562
April 2007 - March 2008	Staff	1,352,261	1,926,544
	Ministers	152,836	52,306
April 2008 - March 2009	Staff	946,526	1,680,163
	Ministers	102,730	53,254
April 2009 - August 2009	Staff	625,562	922,768
	Ministers	38,324	34,148

Information on the split of car-hire expenditure between Ministers and staff could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

On hotels, the expenditure is:

	£
April 2006 - March 2007	87,950
April 2007 - March 2008	358,866
April 2008 - March 2009	541,311
April 2009 - October 2009	327,067

Information on the split of hotel expenditure between Ministers and staff could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The core-Department's financial system records the following expenditure for UK and overseas subsistence but restaurant meals expenditure for Ministers and staff could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	UK	£ *Overseas*
April 2006 - March 2007	700,293	542,883
April 2007 - March 2008	369,091	421,188
April 2008 - March 2009	265,977	357,897
April 2009 - September 2009	252,111	159,318

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively. The Cabinet office publish an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/proprietyandethics/ministers/travelgifts.aspx

The Department for Transport publish an annual written ministerial statement on the cost of ministerial cars. The latest one can be viewed at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhanrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009

Food: Packaging

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to bring forward proposals for sanctions on companies using excessive packaging on their products; and if he will make a statement. [295592]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK's Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended) aim to ensure that all packaging is manufactured to ensure that the weight and volume are limited to the minimum adequate amount to maintain the necessary level of safety, hygiene and acceptance for the packed product and for the consumer.

These regulations are enforced by Trading Standards Officers (TSOs) in local authorities. TSOs investigate complaints about companies using excessive packaging on their products and the regulations contain penalties that the courts can impose if those companies are found not to have complied.

Green Alliance: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments his Department has made to *(a)* Green Alliance and *(b)* Friends of the Earth in the last 12 months. [294909]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The core-department's financial system records that in the last 12 months no payments have been made to Friends of the Earth and payments totalling £103,810 have been made to Green Alliance. Of this sum, £63,962.50 is expenditure on a research study into the Role of Restrictions on Landfill in UK Waste Policy, and £39,847.50 is for grant expenditure on Strategic Relationship Management: Third Sector Strategy. DEFRA's Third Sector Strategy can be viewed at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/third-sectorindex.htm

Japanese Knotweed: Weed Control

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to eradicate Japanese knotweed; what consideration has been given to the introduction of psyllid species as part of such measures; and if he will make a statement. [296722]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have no plans to attempt eradication of Japanese knotweed. The cost of a national eradication programme using current techniques would be prohibitively expensive, estimated in the 2003 DEFRA Review of Non-native Species Policy to be in the region of £1.56 billion.

DEFRA has contributed over £240,000 to a five-year scientific research project in collaboration with Cornwall council, the Environment Agency, the Welsh Assembly Government and others, into the natural control of Japanese knotweed. This study has identified the psyllid 'Aphalara itadori' as highly specific to Japanese knotweed and a potential natural control agent. If successful, the control agent would limit the growth and natural spread of Japanese knotweed, and enhance the effectiveness of its management, but would not eradicate it.

The psyllid has been tested against 87 plant species present in the UK, including all the members of the same genus, whether or not they are native, and all our native members of the same family, plus important crops and ornamentals.

Applications have been submitted for licences to release the psyllid to the wild in England and Wales and the licensing authorities are giving careful consideration to the scientific evidence. This regulatory process has also included a public consultation by DEFRA's Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), which was launched on 23 July. The consultation responses are currently being considered before the proposed licensing decisions are put to Ministers for approval.

Oil Fired Power Stations

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many days oil-fired power stations were activated in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [296479]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The latest 12 month period for which data are available runs from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009. During that time-period oil fired power stations provided electricity to the high voltage transmission system on 182 days. Their output represented 0.4 per cent. of total transmission system demand.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of operational oil-fired power stations will be more than 30 years old in 2010. [296480]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

In 2010, two currently operational oil-fired power stations will be more than 30 years old, approximately 62 per cent. of current oil-fired installed capacity.

Source:

Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2009, table 5.11, available at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of operational coal-fired powers stations will be more than *(a)* 30 and *(b)* 40 years old in 2010. [296481]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

In 2010, 10 currently operational coal-fired stations will be 40 years old or greater, approximately 60 per cent. of current coal-fired capacity, while a further five stations will be between 30 and 40 years old, approximately 36 per cent. of current coal-fired capacity.

Source:

Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2009, table 5.11, available at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293481]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency, Natural England, the Commission for Rural Communities and the Consumer Council for Water attended the three main party conferences.

Renewable Energy: Exports

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the quantity of recovered fuel oil which was exported to other European countries in the last three years. [296855]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has not made an estimate of this kind. However, following the judgment of the Appeal Court in the OSS Group Ltd *v.* Environment Agency case, the Environment Agency published on 1 August 2008 an interim statement on the regulation of waste oil. The Environment Agency's statement is available on its website and sets out the circumstances in which the Agency considers that fuel derived wholly or partially from waste lubricating oil has been fully recovered and has ceased to be waste. The statement also sets out the specification that currently applies in these circumstances.

The Environment Agency's interim statement was published pending the development by the Agency of an end-of-waste protocol for fuels derived from waste lubricating oils. The Government have notified the Agency's post consultation draft of its end-of-waste protocol "for the production and use of processed fuel oil from waste lubricating oils" to the European Commission in compliance with Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC). The initial three-month standstill period required under the directive ends on 30 November 2009.

TRANSPORT

Cycling: Helmets

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 101W, on cycling: helmets, how much his Department has spent on informing those *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* 16 or more years old of the risks of cycling without helmets; and if he will make a statement. [296897]

Paul Clark: The Think! campaigns for children include advice on the use of cycle helmets, as part of wider campaigns. These include Tales of the Road for children aged six to 11, launched in November 2008, which includes both pedestrian and cycle safety, including use of helmets, in the supporting materials, although the three TV adverts focus on pedestrian safety. In April 2009, we launched Think Education, to provide teachers and parents with good quality teaching materials covering all road safety issues. Advice on cycle helmets is part of these materials. So far they cover pre-school and upper primary age ranges. Materials for lower primary and secondary age groups up to 16 will be launched next year. Total spending on these campaigns is £3,525,000 but it is not possible to identify separately the proportion related to the information on cycle helmet use.

Advice on cycle helmet use, for all ages, is also included in the cycling section of the Highway Code. Spending on the Highway Code is covered by revenue raised from sales of priced copies. The material is also available free on the DirectGov website.

We have commissioned research on a range of cycle safety issues, which includes identifying good practice in encouraging use of cycle helmets. The project commenced on 21 August 2008 and will run for 24 months. The Department for Transport expects to publish the final reports in autumn 2010 but is aiming to complete the review of cycle helmet effectiveness later this year. Total spend on this project will be in the region of £537,000.

Cycling: Safety

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve the safety of cyclists. [296978]

Paul Clark: There are a number of initiatives under way at present, aimed at improving the safety of cyclists. These include promoting Bikeability cycle training for children; providing advice to child and adult cyclists on safe road use through the Highway Code and the THINK! road safety campaign, including use of protective equipment such as high visibility clothing and cycle helmets; providing more safe cycle routes to schools and other locations; guidance to local authorities on the design of safer road infrastructure, including effective cycle-specific measures as well as more general measures that benefit all road users such as 20 miles per hour (mph) zones; improvements to motor vehicle driver testing and training; and new measures on lorry mirrors to improve the visibility of cyclists and pedestrians.

In addition, the Department for Transport has commissioned a research project looking at a range of cycle safety issues. The project commenced on 21 August 2008 and will run for 24 months. The Department expects to publish the final reports in autumn 2010.

Our proposals for a new road safety strategy "A Safer Way", published for consultation in April 2009, include a new target to halve the rate of cycle and pedestrian casualties per kilometre travelled. This recognises the need to encourage more cycling and walking as well as making them safer. Measures to achieve this include stronger guidance to local authorities to adopt 20 mph speed limits in residential streets and other areas with high levels of walking and cycle activity. We intend to publish our final road safety strategy later this year.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans the Government has made for the sale of the Dartford-Thurrock crossing; and if he will make a statement. [296569]

Mr. Khan: The Prime Minister announced on 12 October that the Government are planning to raise £3 billion from the sale of assets over the next period. The Dartford Crossing was cited as an example of an asset that could be sold. The Department for Transport is working with HM Treasury and the Shareholder Executive to consider the commercial options for realising value for the taxpayer from the Dartford Crossing. This work is influenced by decisions to be made on the requirement for future capacity.

The Department is planning to provide initial views from the analysis on future capacity options in early 2010. This will provide a basis for deciding which commercialisation option to pursue.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the operator of the Dartford-Thurrock crossing has received under its contract with the Department since April 2008; and how much revenue has accrued to the Department from the operation of the crossing since April 2008. [296571]

Mr. Khan: The Road User Charging Order Accounts for the financial year 2008-09 will set out the revenue collected and the amount paid to Le Crossing Company Limited, previous operators of the Dartford Crossing. This data will not be available until early next year. When published, these Accounts will be placed in the Libraries of the House and on the Highways Agency's website.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of installing a modern payment system which does not require vehicles to stop to pay with cash on the Dartford Crossing; and if he will make a statement. [296416]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* A payment system which does not require vehicles to stop and pay cash is already available at the Dartford Crossing. The Dart-tag system at the crossing is based on dedicated short range communications (DSRC) technology and complies with EU directive 2004/52/EC (Interoperability of Electronic Road Toll Systems). This is a pre-payment system available for all classes of vehicle and does not involve cash handling at the plaza.

A Dart-Tag is a computer chip based device that fixes to the inside of the vehicle's windscreen. Equipment installed in the toll booths automatically scans the personalised Dart-Tag, and providing the driver's account is in credit, the barrier rises automatically.

The Department for Transport intends to look further at the potential benefits of credit card payments and newer technologies at the Dartford Crossing.

Driving Offences

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic incidents involving stretch limousines and involving death or serious injury have been reported in the most recent year for which figures are available. [297483]

Paul Clark: In 2008 there were five reported road accidents involving death or serious injury known to involve limousines. It is not recorded how many of these were stretched limousines.

Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the average quantity of carbon dioxide released by an exhaust which is *(a)* compliant with and *(b)* not compliant with the criteria set out in European Directive 92/97/EEC. [296412]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has made no assessment of the impact on carbon dioxide emissions of exhausts which are *(a)* compliant with and *(b)* not compliant with the criteria set out in European Directive 92/97/EEC.

The Directive is primarily concerned with the ability of replacement exhausts to control noise. It does not directly control CO_2 emissions, although it does limit the maximum permissible increase in exhaust back-pressure. However, there is no reason to expect a difference between approved and reasonable quality, non-approved replacement exhaust systems in respect of CO_2 emissions.

Lorries: Safety

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to improve the safety of heavy goods vehicles. [296869]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working on a range of measures to improve heavy goods vehicle safety. On vehicle standards, our plans include implementing mandatory requirements for Electronic Stability Control and supporting the introduction of Lane Departure Warning Systems and Advanced Emergency Braking Systems. We are also carrying out research on ways to improve driver vision. Earlier this year new regulations to harmonise the minimum European safety and environmental standards for all large vehicles came into force and will take effect over the next four years.

Motor Vehicles: Environment Protection

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of the effects of *(a)* motorcycles and *(b)* cars on the environment in the period from 2006 to 2009. [296980]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has not conducted a specific assessment on this subject. However, the Department did publish research on improving road transport emissions modelling in June 2009, which can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/emissions/

This research includes an updated database of 'road vehicle emissions factors'. These characterise the average emissions rates of different types of vehicles as a function of the average speed at which they are driven. This database includes emissions factors (both air quality and greenhouse gas emissions) for different sizes of cars and motorcycles.

Motor Vehicles: Exports

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his estimate is of the number of second-hand *(a)* passenger cars and *(b)* light vans that were sold for export in each of the last five years. [296415]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* The precise information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has been notified that a total of 315,092 vehicles were exported during 2008 that had previously been registered at an address in Great Britain. By late October, 307,823 vehicles had been exported during 2009.

These figures cover all vehicle types, including commercial vehicles, and all permanent exports, regardless of whether or not the export coincided with a sale or a change of ownership.

Motorcycles: Environment Protection

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage the purchase of environmentally-friendly motorcycles. [296982]

Mr. Khan: Like other road vehicles, new motorcycles are subject to mandatory air quality emissions standards. Motorcycles are not currently tested for CO_2 emissions when they are type approved. In the absence of standard CO_2 emissions figures, vehicle excise duty on motorcycles is graduated based on engine capacity as an approximate surrogate for CO_2 emissions.

Road Traffic Offences: Foreigners

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on measures to ensure that drivers of heavy goods vehicles registered overseas are prosecuted for road traffic offences committed in England and Wales. [295013]

Paul Clark: In April 2009, the Government introduced the graduated penalty and fixed deposit scheme. This empowers both the police and enforcement officers from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to demand on-the-spot payment of a financial deposit from non-resident drivers (including heavy goods vehicle drivers) committing road traffic offences. Offenders are given the option to go to court, and have the deposit returned to them if they are subsequently cleared of the offence. In practice, almost no foreign drivers elect to go to court.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether there are any plans to extend to 11 carriages all of the 52 Pendolino trains. [296885]

Chris Mole: The option to extend the remaining 21 Pendolino trains to 11 carriages is currently being considered by the Department for Transport and we intend to make a decision by the end of the year on whether we wish to progress this option further.

Waterloo International

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date ownership of Waterloo International passed from *(a)* the British Rail (Residuary) body to his Department; and *(b)* his Department to Network Rail. [295906]

Chris Mole: The Waterloo International Terminal was transferred directly from Eurostar (UK) Ltd. to BRB (Residuary) Ltd. (BRBR) on 27 March 2008. The facility remains in BRBR's ownership.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much money his Department has spent on salaries for staff working on heritage *(a)* in actual prices, *(b)* in real prices and *(c)* as a percentage of total expenditure on staff salaries by his Department in each year since 1997. [292305]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 October 2009]*: Salaries for employees working on heritage in *(a)* actual prices and *(b)* in real prices and *(c)* as a percentage of total expenditure on employee salaries is set out in the table. Variations in the figures are explained by restructuring and efficiency savings undertaken within the division, and the transfer of areas of responsibility to other divisions within the Department.

	Heritage staff salaries in actual prices (£)	*Heritage staffs salaries in real prices (£)*	*Salaries in actual prices as a percentage of total salaries*
2008-09	932,990	932,990	5.15
2007-08	1,124,157	1,151,729	4.31
2006-07	1,364,310	1,438,159	5.33
2005-06	1,353,348	1,468,811	5.77
2004-05	1,235,931	1,364,409	5.78
2003-04	1,327,530	1,508,471	6.61
2002-03	1,277,922	1,493,039	6.40
2001-02	1,334,472	1,609,388	6.33
2000-01	1,363,659	1,681,329	5.39
1999-2000	1,495,373	1,868,205	6.05
1998-99	1,600,812	2,039,017	6.89
1997-98	1,440,411	1,873,364	10.50

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff of his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297341]

Mr. Simon: DCMS staff are actively encouraged to work alternative working patterns, including working from home. These are mainly arranged at local line management level and the Department does not hold comprehensive data centrally about the number of staff involved. DCMS has a new human resources information system in place, and when this is fully operational, will record this information for us.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* full and *(b)* part-time employees his Department had in each year since 1997. [297395]

Mr. Simon: The number of full and part time employees for each year since 1997 is set out in the following table. Head count is taken as at 1 April each year.

	Full time employees	*Part-time employees*	*Total*
1997-98	330	18	348
1998-99	369	18	387
1999-2000	341	13	354
2000-01	390	20	410
2001-02	380	20	400
2002-03	430	20	450
2003-04	460	30	490
2004-05	490	40	530
2005-06	480	45	525
2006-07	480	41	521
2007-08	494	33	527
2008-09	437	45	482

Film

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to support the UK film industry. [297258]

Mr. Simon: The Government have recently announced that they will commit £45 million to establish a new state-of-the-art national film centre on London's South Bank, on top of the £25 million investment in the UK's screen heritage previously announced. The new BFI National Film Centre will showcase the best of British and world cinema across five screens, as well as creating an innovative new space for exhibitions, cultural events, research and study.

The Government provided £34.834 million of grant funding to the UK Film Council for 2009-10. The UK Film Council invests grant in aid and lottery money in developing new filmmakers, in funding exciting new British films, in getting a wider choice of films to audiences throughout the UK, and in awarding £16 million annually to the BFI to fund activities which include the preservation of the film archives. The UK Film Council also invests in training, promoting Britain as an international filmmaking location and in raising the profile of British films abroad.

The Government provide tax relief to support filmmakers; in 2008-09 film production companies benefited from £100 million worth of tax credit.

Horse Racing: Bookmakers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2039W, on horse racing: bookmakers, whether the letter sent by the Minister of Sport referred to a dispute resolution mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [297100]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My letter of 28 July to the Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers and the Race Course Association included my view that a dispute resolution mechanism should be allowed, as long as it is simple, quick and cost effective, and does not become a reason to avoid legitimate negotiation.

Horse Racing: Towcester

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the regulatory regime on the future of Towcester racecourse in light of the agreement between the racecourse and its bookmakers for the tenure of on-course bookmaker listing positions. [297622]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have not made a recent detailed assessment of the regulatory regime on the future of Towcester Racecourse but I did meet their representatives at the outset of the on-course discussions and have taken a close interest in the developments. I was delighted to attend a reception hosted by Towcester Racecourse on 27 October to announce the agreement they have reached with their on-course bookmakers and I encourage other race courses to consider similar agreements.

Island Games

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to promote the Island Games in the Isle of Wight. [297662]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are delighted that the Isle of Wight has won the right to host the 2011 Island Games. While the primary responsibility for promoting the games lies with the organising committee that has been established, the Department would be happy to meet with them to discuss what assistance it might be able to provide.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter of 1 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Tim Bannister. [296119]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

I responded to my right hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton on behalf of my noble Friend the Secretary of State and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 26 October. The letter that was sent to the Department for Culture Media and Sport had been transferred to the Department for Business for response. I apologise to my right hon. Friend that he had not been advised of the transfer.

Swimming: Concessions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people took part in his Department's free swimming initiative in the last 12 months. [297399]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of unique participants in the Free Swimming Programme is not collected centrally. Local authorities are responsible for collecting data on the number of free swims that have taken place in their area each month. The latest figures, published on 27 October 2009, showed that 10,373,811 free swims have taken place in the six months since the programme's launch on 1 April 2009.

The Government have commissioned a robust independent evaluation of the Free Swimming Programme which is led by PricewaterhouseCoopers. PricewaterhouseCoopers will draw together a range of data over the coming months to provide an estimate of the number of people that have taken part in free swimming. We expect an evaluation report to be published in early summer 2010.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the move of VisitBritain and VisitEngland to new headquarters cost; what the estimated operating cost is for the new headquarters in each of the next three years; and what the operating costs were for *(a)* VisitBritain's and *(b)* VisitEngland's former headquarters in each of the last five years. [296453]

Margaret Hodge: The information regarding the move of VisitBritain and VisitEngland to new headquarters is held by VisitBritain.

I have therefore asked VisitBritain's chief executive to answer the question raised by the hon. Member for Bath and to write to him direct.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the VisitBritain website in each of the last five years; how many visitors the website received in each of those years; and what the average hit rate was for individual accommodation business web pages in each of those years. [296454]

Margaret Hodge: The VisitBritain website is the responsibility of VisitBritain.

I have therefore asked VisitBritain's chief executive to answer the question raised by the hon. Member for Bath and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the *(a)* VisitBritain and *(b)* Enjoy England websites in each year since their establishment. [297112]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The running and maintenance of these website are the responsibility of VisitBritain and VisitEngland respectively, who operate independently of Government.

I have therefore asked the chief executives of the organisations concerned to consider the questions raised by the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

World Heritage Sites

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications for locations in England to become World Heritage Sites are outstanding; and if he will make a statement. [297005]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The UK Tentative List, published in 1999, identified 25 sites for potential nomination for World Heritage status, 15 of which are located in England. Six English sites have since been inscribed on the World Heritage List. One English site, Darwin's Landscape Laboratory, was submitted to UNESCO in 2009 and will be considered by the World Heritage Committee at its annual meeting in 2010.

The Government are currently reviewing its World Heritage policy including making nominations in the future and expects to make an announcement later this autumn.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Average Earnings: Income Related Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition of average earnings her Department uses when setting the rates of benefits that are linked to earnings; and over which 12 month period the calculation is made. [296532]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* Where the Secretary of State reviews the amounts of earnings linked benefits, by convention, the Department uses the seasonally adjusted, three-month average earnings figure for the whole economy, including bonuses, for May to July compared with same period the previous year, as calculated by the Office for National Statistics.

The Government will inform Parliament of proposed benefit levels and tax thresholds for 2010-11 at the pre-Budget Report.

Better Off in Work Credit: Yorkshire

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have moved from benefits to work as a result of the Better off in Work Credit pilot in Yorkshire. [293983]

Jim Knight: Under the current tax and benefit systems, the combination of the national minimum wage, tax credits and the other forms of in-work support we have introduced ensures that work pays for the majority of people, and particularly lone parents and disabled people who receive significantly more in work.

One of our reasons for introducing the credit was to give assurances to our customers on the financial benefits of moving into work and to encourage them to look for and start work. The pilot ends on 30 October 2009. We will then evaluate the number of people who have moved from benefits into work.

Carer's Allowance: St Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in St Albans constituency *(a)* are entitled to and *(b)* receive carer's allowance. [297569]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Number of people entitled to carer's allowance—St. Albans constituency: February 2009

	Number
Total with entitlement	850
Total with entitlement only	350
Total receiving payment	500

Notes:
1. Caseload totals show the number of people who are entitled to receive carer's allowance, including those who receive no actual payment.
2. Carers entitled to receive carer's allowance may not be paid it because they receive an overlapping benefit equal to or greater than their weekly rate of carer's allowance.
3. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Figures are published on the Department for Work and Pensions website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff there were in *(a)* her Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* her Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292074]

Helen Goodman: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 when the then Department of Social Security merged with the then Employment Service and some parts of the then Department for Education and Employment.

Staffing information for the predecessor organisations in 1997 can be found in the Civil Service Statistics Report for 1997. The report is available in electronic format through the attached link:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/css97_tcm6-2540.pdf

The latest staffing figures which are publicly available are as at 30 June 2009. At this date there were 101,611 full-time equivalent staff in the Department for Work and Pensions and its Executive agencies.[1]

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[1] Figure does not include staff in the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission or in the Health and Safety Executive.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which companies are under contract to her Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296093]

Jim Knight: DWP's primary postal provider remains Royal Mail Group. There is no contract or expiry date and we have an annually agreed memorandum of understanding. Other contracted DWP postal providers are as follows:

UK Mail—a contract for system generated second class mail to DWP customers. The DWP contract runs until 31 March 2010 and there is scope to extend this contract until 31 March 2011.

Spring Global Mail—a contract for international mail to DWP customers—due to expire 30 April 2010.

DWP's contracted courier provider is TNT—the contract is until 31 January 2010, with an option to extend until 31 March 2012. The courier service is for internal items sent between DWP offices and third party providers - it is not used for delivery to DWP customers' home addresses.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to her Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296058]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions is participating in the Operational Efficiency Programme benchmarking exercise led by the Treasury, and we have set up a Departmental Efficiency Group to identify and implement efficiency improvements arising from this.

I have taken on a role as the Department's Value for Money Minister and am engaging with the Treasury to ensure we drive forward this agenda.

There is a wide range of learning and development opportunities available across the Department, many of which are focused on driving Value for Money. In particular, we have set up a lean academy which will enable managers and staff to improve efficiency and customer service.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on first class rail travel for civil servants in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [293095]

Jim Knight: The Department's expenditure on first class rail travel has only been gathered in the format requested since June 2006. Details for the three-year period from June 2006 is shown in the following table:

£

First class rail spend for DWP	*Domestic*	*Overseas*	*Total*
June 2006 to May 2007	12,862,966	93,966	12,956,932
June 2007 to May 2008	12,236,169	93,872	12,330,041
June 2008 to May 2009	12,920,688	115,043	13,035,731

The Department's rail travel policy encourages staff to travel using the most cost effective tickets available at the time of booking and staff must consider travelling standard class where possible.

Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. The Civil Service Management Code sets outs regulations and instructions to Departments and agencies regarding the terms and conditions of service of civil servants and the delegations which have been made by the Minister for the Civil Service under the Civil Service (Management of Functions) Act 1992 together with the conditions attached to those delegations.

The Code can be accessed at:

http://beta.civilservice.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

Paragraph 8.2 of the Code deals with travel and under this section Departments and agencies must ensure that staff use the most efficient and economic means of travel in the circumstances, taking into account any management benefit or the needs of staff with disabilities.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many helplines her Department operates; and how much her Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294987]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has 10 main customer contact numbers, which we think could be considered 'helplines'.

DWP does not receive any revenue from incoming phone calls. All call charges are levied by the caller's telephone or mobile service provider.

DWP ceased to receive a rebate on 0845 numbers in 2007. Prior to this, the revenue from 0845 calls was approximately £500,000 per year. We do not hold any more detailed information on this rebate.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations she has received on changing the charging arrangements for helplines operated by her Department and its agencies to allow mobile telephone users to contact such helplines without incurring additional costs; and if she will make a statement. [295467]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: Over the course of the year, representations have been received from other Members of Parliament, on similar issues, such as the cost of 0845 numbers to customers using mobile phones to contact the Department for Work and Pensions. All of these have been answered fully and are available on record.

Additionally, DWP's Permanent Secretary was asked to comment on the CAB publication, "Hung Up—The Cost of Contacting Government from a Mobile Phone" A response was provided as requested.

Employers' Liability

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many organisations legally required to have an employers' liability insurance policy in force were prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive for *(a)* failure to display a notice at a place of work giving details of such a policy and *(b)* failure to have such a policy in force in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07, (iv) 2007-08 and (v) 2008-09. [293898]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 October 2009]*: The number of dutyholders the Health and Safety Executive have prosecuted for failure to *(a)* display a notice of employers' liability insurance or *(b)* failure to hold employers' liability insurance are as follows:

	(a) Failure to display	*(b) No insurance*
2004-05	1	14
2005-06	—	5
2006-07	—	8
2007-08	—	5

Figures for 2008-09 will be available in November 2009.

Employment Tribunals Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times her Department has been taken to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; what the reasons cited in each case were; and in how many such cases the tribunal found in favour of (i) the employee and (ii) the Department. [290413]

Jim Knight: Much of the information requested would be available only from a detailed examination of individual records and cases from the last five years. The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs each of the 117 successful bidders for funding from the Future Jobs Fund plans to create *(a)* by given dates and *(b)* in total under its proposal. [291647]

Jim Knight: Around 31,000 jobs have so far been granted funding for the period October 2009 to March 2010. Details of the individual bids are in the attached table. In total, the 117 successful bids have bid to create up to 75,000 jobs over the lifetime of the Future Jobs Fund. Until we have assessed performance from the first six months jobs we are unable to specify how many of these further jobs will be created from the first tranche of bids. We will be undertaking performance reviews in January 2010.

Tranche One Successful Future Jobs Fund Bidders Jobs Granted Funding, October 2009 to March 2010

Royal National Institute of Blind	45
Aberdeen City Council	10
Renaissance East of England	30
The Healthy Hub CIC	35
Kent County Council	360
Places for People	75
Trust Energy Solutions	70
London - Barking and Dagenham	108
Third Sector Hebrides	20
Green-Works	51
Kirklees Council	138
HCT Group	42
Gateway Knowledge Alliance	200
Call Brittania	45
Falkirk Council	28
The Coalfields Regeneration Trust	91
NHS	30
Camden Council	108
Cheshire West and Chester Council	330
Birmingham, Coventry and Black Country	3,552
West Lindsey District Council	30
Raploch Urban Regeneration Com	10
Croydon Economic Development C	24
Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training	40
Humber Economic Partnership	145
Apex Scotland	2
Fife Council	38
St Mungo's	50
Community Action Derby	100
North Yorkshire Learning Consortium	40
Southbank Centre	30
3SC	2,932
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	524
Wiltshire Council	180
VC Train Consortium	60
Cornwall Council	82
Erewash Borough Council	20
South Lanarkshire Council	400
Royal Borough of Kingston	40
WCVA	593
Furniture Resource Centre Ltd	36
Midlothian Council	32
East Ayrshire Council	113
The Pre-school Learning Alliance	50
Lewisham Council	79
Southbank Employers Group	38
Novas Scarman Group	33
Angus Council	22
Bolsover District Council	50
Dundee Partnership	65
Pennine Lancashire	419
West Dunbartonshire Council	120
West Lothian Council	30

Tranche One Successful Future Jobs Fund Bidders Jobs Granted Funding, October 2009 to March 2010

Brighton and Hove City Council	120
First Movement	8
Resources Plus	100
Apex Scotland	2
Middlesbrough Council	150
Luton Borough Council	102
Newport Future Jobs Fund Partnership	72
Network for Black Professionals	90
North Tyneside Council	1,610
Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd	350
Scottish Wildlife Trust	100
Inverclyde Council	120
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	181
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	96
Pembrokeshire County Council	60
Camarthenshire County Council	97
Lambeth First	198
East Tenders	57
Norfolk County Council	356
Glasgow City Council	300
Pentra Services Ltd	30
Interlink	45
North Ayrshire Council	60
Apex Scotland	2
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council(Liverpool City Region)	2,570
Nacro	48
Social Enterprise London	200
London Borough of Ealing	100
Greenwich Council	260
Hampshire County Council	398
Hastings Borough Council	125
Islington Council	167
Host Borough Unit	89
Asian Women's Project	0
Westminster City Council	95
London Youth	50
North Lanarkshire Council	390
Nottingham City Council	800
Salvation Army	332
Redcar and Cleveland Borough LSP	75
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	872
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts	182
Scottish Forestry Commission	60
St. Paul's Community Development Trust	100
Kensington and Chelsea	62
Stride	78
Southwark Earn and Learn	112
Thanet District Council	119
Renaisi Ltd	100
Education Supplement Partnership	0
SCVO	1,020
Groundwork and NHF	2,384
Bristol City Council	189
Training for Life	49
Warwickshire County Council	73
City of Edinburgh Council	80
Herefordshire Council	54
Copeland Borough Council	48
Sheffield City Council	790
Barnsley MDC	326
Lancashire County Council	128
Hartlepool Borough Council	500
Salford City Council (aka Commission for the New Economy)	1,500
Cardiff Council	289
Shropshire County Council (Training)	60
Total	30,975

Source:
Future Jobs Fund Management Information

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions over what time period each of the proposals successful in the Future Jobs Fund bidding round which concluded in July 2009 will operate; and how many and by what date jobs will be created under each scheme. [291876]

Jim Knight: There is a rolling grant award process, with bidding rounds closing at the end of every month. There were 117 successful bidders for the initial bidding round which closed on 30 June. These bids will create jobs between October 2009 and March 2011.

There were 30 successful bidders for the second bidding round and 18 for the third round.

From the first bidding round, the Government are granting funding now only for jobs that will start between October 2009 and March 2010. The Government have so far granted funding for approximately 31,000 jobs on this basis. We will then assess performance of the Future Jobs Fund before extending grants. We will be undertaking these performance reviews in late 2009 and early 2010. In total, successful bidders in the first round had bid for approximately 75,000 jobs over the period October 2009 to March 2011, although it is not possible at this stage to state precisely how many of these further jobs will be funded after the performance reviews have concluded.

In total 150,000 new jobs will be created under the Future Jobs Fund between October 2009 and March 2011, of which 100,000 will be for young people. The other 50,000 will be in employment hotspots, and will also be open to young people in those areas.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bids for funding from the Future Jobs Fund have been received from organisations in the *(a)* culture, music and creative industries and *(b)* sports and media industries; and how much such organisations have received funding from the fund. [295518]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a detailed breakdown of the sectors that the bids seek to create jobs in. The list of successful bidders to the Future Jobs Fund is available on our website at

www.dwp.gov.uk/futurejobsfund.

Many of these bids are from partnerships who plan to create jobs with a variety of organisations, in different sectors. The Football League Trust and the National Skills Academy for Sport led bid will be creating Future Jobs Fund jobs primarily in the sports sector.

Information on the levels of funding awarded is not publicly available as this is commercially confidential.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants between the ages of 18 and 25 she expects to take part in three additional mandatory work-focused interviews as proposed in the Social Security (Incapacity Benefit Work-Focused Interviews) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 in the next 12 months. [292916]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The exercise to require existing customers on incapacity benefits under the age of 25 in Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work areas to attend mandatory work-focused interviews begins this month. We plan to complete the exercise by March 2011. Current estimates indicate that around 28,300 customers will be affected, this represents around 25 per cent. of the 18 to 25-year-olds currently on incapacity benefits nationally. Customers who are currently exempt from attending personal capability assessments will not be called in for interview.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants who receive both disability living allowance and incapacity benefit have been in receipt of incapacity benefit for more than *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months, *(c)* 18 months, *(d)* two years and *(e)* five years. [295572]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer on 26 October 2009]:* The information is in the table:

Number of people receiving incapacity benefit and disability living allowance by duration as at February 2009

Duration	*Number of claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and disability living allowance*
6 months and up to 12 months	46,390
12 months and up to 18 months	42,410
18 months and up to 2 years	41,540
2 years and up to 5 years	219,620
5 years and over	945,600

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Durations refer to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance awards.
3. Data are for Great Britain and abroad.
4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. These data do not include employment and support allowance.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 1394W, on Jobcentre Plus manpower, how many of the *(a)* personal advisers of each type and *(b)* customer service operations staff (i) have been recruited and (ii) are planned to be recruited. [291218]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking, pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 1394W, on Jobcentre Plus manpower, how many of the *(a)* personal advisers of each type and *(b)* customer service operations staff (i) have been recruited and (ii) are planned to be recruited. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

Information relating to the number of Personal Advisers deployed in Jobcentre Plus was previously provided to the answer of 19 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 558W.

The Department is planning to publish more up-to-date numbers on DWP manpower in the near future. These will be published in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Jobcentre Plus: Birmingham

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* aims and *(b)* performance to date of the Birmingham City Council Jobcentre Plus partnership. [295848]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* aims and *(b)* performance to date of the Birmingham City Council Jobcentre Plus partnership. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Birmingham City Council has been a long standing partner in a wide range of initiatives which have an employment or training focus. Jobcentre Plus and Birmingham City Council are an active part of a wider network promoting support for those who are workless or disadvantaged. Birmingham City Council is also very active in the City Region, in the design and delivery of the Multi Area Agreement which Jobcentre Plus is also a member of. The Local Area Agreement also provides a productive working arrangement for both organisations and other partners.

Most of this activity has a similar aim to help reduce unemployment, increase employment and to tackle deep seated worklessness. Examples of joint working stem from the Joint Venture Partnership which delivered New Deal in the city, the partnership initiatives to address the closure of MG Rover and the impact on other dependent businesses and the redevelopment and modernisation of the Bull Ring.

In addition Birmingham City Council is the accountable body for several funding streams such as the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and works with partners to target funding to those most in need, for example, geographically targeted employment support.

Recently Jobcentre Plus has developed initiatives with Birmingham City Council to help those affected by the closure of the van maker LDV, which ensured that 662 LDV workers received a range of advice on job search, debt avoidance and claiming Housing Benefits. 111 ex-LDV workers have returned to employment and a further 493 have received training.

Jobcentre Plus and Birmingham City Council have developed a joint offer to contractors and employers involved in regeneration and relocation within the city. Projects include the New Birmingham Library and the relocation of Bournville College as part of the Longbridge Development.

Birmingham City Council signed a Local Employment Partnership Agreement on 1 April 2008 and were one of the first to pledge help for young people through Backing Young Britain. They lead a coalition with the public sector, private employers and the third sector to deliver the City Region wide Future Jobs Fund with more than 2000 jobs being identified in Birmingham.

Jobcentre Plus works closely with Birmingham City Council's Employment Action Team to reach customers and communities furthest away from the labour market and jointly promote Local Employment Partnerships to deliver customised packages to support employers. For example, 160 disadvantaged customers are undertaking a Pre-Recruitment Training programme for a national retailer opening in early 2010.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in each region in each of the last five years. [291602]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in each region in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A regional breakdown for the period before 2007/08 is not available. For that period therefore, we are providing an overall Jobcentre Plus staffing figure for each year as shown below:

Jobcentre Plus staffing

	Full-time equivalent
2004/05	74,474
2005/06	71,221
2006/07	67,946

For 2007/08 and 2008/09, the information at regional/country level is in the table below. The levels of Jobcentre Plus staff deployed across regions/countries will vary depending on how specific areas of work are managed. For instance, the Contact Centre Directorate operates a virtual network and therefore aligning their work to geographic boundaries would be misleading. Wales has three large contact centres handling calls as part of the virtual network.

On the same principle, the network of Benefit Delivery Centres can, and does, move work around the country on a weekly basis to maximise speed of claim processing. Although Benefit Delivery Centres are in the main linked to regions/countries, such work movement and some centralised functions mean there is not a clear distinction. For example, applications for National Insurance numbers are processed in two centres, Glasgow and Isle of Wight, so staff numbers will be included in the Government Office Region for Scotland and South East respectively.

Jobcentre Plus staffing

		Full-time equivalent
Region/country	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
East Midlands	4,342	4,801
East of England	4,202	4,601
London	7,407	7,560
North East	4,313	4,333
North West	10,661	10,672
Scotland	7,776	8,256
South East	5,118	5,555
South West	4,275	4,602
Wales	4,562	4,908
West Midlands	6,391	6,781
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,360	7,413
Total	66,407	69,482

Notes:
1. Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics definitions for counting headcount and details the position at March for each of the last five years.
2. The figures have been rounded to whole numbers.

Source:
The data provided is taken from Dataview, an electronic extract drawn from payroll.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many care partnership managers were in post in each Jobcentre Plus district on 1 October 2009. [294498]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Care Partnership Managers were in post in each Jobcentre Plus district on 1 October 2009. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

On 1 October this year a total of 51 Care Partnership Managers were in post across 48 Jobcentre Plus districts. Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon district, Devon and Cornwall district and The Marches each had two Care Partnership Managers in post. All the others had one in post.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff have been employed in (i) benefit delivery centres and (ii) customer-facing job centres operated by Jobcente Plus in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in each year since 2004. [295402]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) permanent (b) temporary and (c) agency staff have been employed in (i) Benefit Delivery Centres and (ii) customer-facing Jobcentres operated by Jobcentre Plus in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in each year since 2004. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are two Jobcentres in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency, but no Benefit Delivery Centres. Our Benefit Delivery Centres at Luton and Watford cater for people who live within the constituency.

Information below national level for the period prior to 2006/07 is not available. The table below sets out data for both Jobcentres for each of the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09, broken down by permanent, fixed-term appointment and temporary staff. Also included is the position as at July 2009. We do not employ agency staff.

Staff employed by Jobcentre Plus in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency

	Bedford Jobcentre	Biggleswade Jobcentre
2006/07		
Permanent	77	10
Fixed Term Appointment	—	—
Temporary	—	—
Total	77	10
2007/08		
Permanent	69	11
Fixed Term Appointment	3	—
Temporary	—	—
Total	72	11
2008/09		
Permanent	85	12
Fixed Term Appointment	[illegible]	3
Temporary	1	—
Total	98	15
July 2009		
Permanent	72	10
Fixed Term Appointment	29	7
Temporary	5	—
Total	106	17

Notes:
1. Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics definitions for counting headcount and details the position at March for each of the last three years.
2. The figures have been rounded to whole numbers.
Source:
The data provided are taken from Dataview, an electronic extract drawn from payroll.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Derbyshire

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what average length of time jobseeker's allowance claimants, resident in West Derbyshire, received the allowance in each of the last five years. [295874]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The following table shows the average length of jobseeker's allowance claims in West Derbyshire in the last five years.

	West Derbyshire	
	Claims terminated during period	Median length
October 2004 to September 2005[1]	1,735	9.5
October 2005 to September 2006[1]	1,740	10.1
October 2006 to September 2007[1]	1.975	9.7
October 2007 to September 2008[1]	1,805	8.5
October 2008 to September 2009[1]	3,030	9.2

[1] Inclusive.
Notes:
1. Claims terminated during period are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Median is measured in number of weeks. 3. Median is the preferred measure of "average" for duration of claim, rather than arithmetic mean which would be unduly influenced by outliers.
Source:
DWP WPLS 100 per cent. data.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants have moved on to employment support allowance in each of the last 12 months. [293595]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

New Deal for Disabled People and Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on the New Deal for Disabled People in each year since 2001. [295025]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* The information requested is in the table:

Total programme expenditure on new deal for disabled people

	£ million
2001-02	4.1
2002-03	15.6
2003-04	28.5
2004-05	64.8
2005-06	68.4
2006-07	73.0
2007-08	78.4
2008-09	34.1

Note:
The reduction of expenditure in 2008-09 is due to the introduction of contracted delivery of Pathways to Work in around half the country. These contracted services include provision which is analogous to the new deal for disabled people which now only operates in the remaining districts.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sub-contractors have withdrawn from contractual commitments in the delivery of the *(a)* New Deal for Disabled People and *(b)* Pathways to Work programme; how many contracts have been handed back to prime providers in each district; and what the monetary value of contracts returned to prime providers is to date. [292914]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The number of subcontractors that have withdrawn from the delivery of New Deal for Disabled People and Pathways to Work provision will be placed in the House of Commons Library during November.

The monetary value of Pathways to Work contracts is a commercial matter between the organisations concerned.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* severe disablement allowance who were also in receipt of (i) income support, (ii) housing benefit and (iii) council tax benefit in each year for which information is available. [295570]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The available information is in the tables.

Housing benefit recipients (HB) also claiming incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) in Great Britain: May 1995 to May 2004

	IB		*SDA*	
	Claiming IB and HB	*Estimate of percentage of IB claimants also in receipt of HB*	*Claiming SDA and HB*	*Estimate of percentage of SDA claimants also in receipt of HB*
May 1995	431,000	[1]18	92,000	[1]26
May 1996	434,000	[1]18	110,000	[1]31
May 1997	446,000	[1]19	117,000	[1]32
May 1998	439,000	[1]19	122,000	[1]33
May 1999	423,000	[1]19	118,000	[1]32
May 2000	407,000	17	114,000	30
May 2001	400,000	17	115,000	31
May 2002	403,000	16	114,000	34
May 2003	396,000	16	112,000	35
May 2004	414,000	17	114,000	37

Council tax benefit (CTB) recipients also claiming incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA): Great Britain: May 1995 to May 2004

	IB		*SDA*	
	Claiming IB and CTB	*Estimate of percentage of IB claimants also in receipt of CTB*	*Claiming SDA and CTB*	*Estimate of percentage of SDA claimants also in receipt of CTB*
May 1995	529,000	[1]22	101,000	[1]29
May 1996	528,000	[1]22	116,000	[1]33
May 1997	573,000	[1]24	119,000	[1]32
May 1998	569,000	[1]25	124,000	[1]33
May 1999	541,000	[1]24	118,000	[1]32
May 2000	516,000	22	112,000	30
May 2001	511,000	21	113,000	30
May 2002	512,000	21	110,000	33
May 2003	498,000	20	97,000	30
May 2004	497,000	20	97,000	32

[1] These estimates are based on a 5 per cent. sample of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants.

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Case loads are rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Percentages are rounded to the nearest per cent.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Council tax bene[illegible] figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.
6. All proportions are estimates as figures are based on a 1 per cent. HB/CTB sample and come from two different data sources.
7. SDA figures were derived by looking at IBSDA claimants and IB claimants and working out the difference between these figures.
8. In time, these figures will be able to be derived by matching the new single housing benefit extract (SHBE) with other benefit data.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Annual 1 per cent. sample taken between May 1995 and May 2004.

Number and proportion of people receiving incapacity benefit (IB) and income support (IS)

	IB		*SDA*	
	Claiming IB and IS	*Percentage of IB claimants also in receipt of IS*	*Claiming SDA and IS*	*Percentage of SDA claimants also in receipt of IS*
February 2000	959,880	40.9	256,540	68.3
February 2001	1,040,160	43.1	260,410	69.1
February 2002	1,078,130	44.4	253,550	70.4
February 2003	1,126,410	45.2	229,840	70.8
February 2004	1,038,020	41.4	191,950	62.0
February 2005	1,025,690	41.0	183,040	61.8
February 2006	1,022,180	41.5	174,150	61.5
February 2007	1,029,100	42.3	167,300	61.8
February 2008	1,035,630	43.1	159,750	61.8
February 2009	982,500	44.2	152,750	61.9

Note:

Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are rounded to the nearest one decimal place.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in state pensions to British expatriates in each overseas country in each year from 1997 to 2008. [297122]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available, as nationality is not routinely held on our statistical data sources. Information on state pensions paid overseas, irrespective of nationality, can be found in the DWP pages on the internet (table SP2):

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/historical_overseas.xls

Winter Fuel Payments

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in St Albans constituency *(a)* over the age of 60, *(b)* over the age of 80 and *(c)* in total received a winter fuel payment in each of the last three years. [297531]

Angela Eagle: The number of individuals that received a winter fuel payment in St. Albans constituency, in each of the last three years are as follows:

	(a) Number of individuals aged 60 to 79	*(b) Number of individuals aged 80 and over*	*(c) Total number of individuals*
2006-07	13,570	3,450	17,020
2007-08	13,930	3,580	17,510
2008-09	14,190	3,690	17,880

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 for years.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on winter fuel payments in each year since 2005. [297408]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the following table:

Expenditure on winter fuel payments

£ million

	Outturn			*Provisional outturn*
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Expenditure	1,982	2,015	2,071	2,694

Notes:
1. Figures are for Great Britain.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest million.
3. Figures include additional payments made in 2008-09 of £50 for 60-79 year-olds and £100 for over 80 year olds.
Source:
DWP benefit expenditure tables, Table 3
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables_Budget2009_Values.xls

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many British *(a)* citizens and *(b)* residents have been captured by (i) British and (ii) coalition forces in Afghanistan in each province in each year since 2001; [296141]

(2) how many British citizens and residents captured in Afghanistan have subsequently been charged with a crime; how many were released without charge; and how many have been detained without charge; [296142]

(3) how long on average British citizens and residents captured by British and coalition forces in Afghanistan since 2001 have been detained; and in which countries they have been detained; [296143]

(4) how many British citizens and residents captured in Afghanistan and subsequently charged with a crime remain in custody. [296731]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No UK citizens or residents have been captured by British forces in Afghanistan since 2001.

Her Majesty's Government are aware of six UK citizens captured by coalition forces in Afghanistan since 2001, all of whom were subsequently transferred to Guantanamo Bay. None of these individuals were charged with a crime and all have since been released without charge. The average period of detention by coalition forces, including time spent at Guantanamo Bay, for these individuals was approximately two and a half years.

It is not possible to be specific about the number of UK residents captured by coalition forces. When detained an individual will be asked their nationality, not their country of residence, and may choose not to offer this information. It should also be noted that coalition forces are not obliged to inform us of when they detain a non-UK national; therefore, we may not be informed when a British resident has been detained. Furthermore, while an individual may have resided in the UK it will not always be possible to determine whether they were lawfully resident. For this reason, any figure we give cannot be definitive. We are, however, aware of at least one UK resident captured by coalition forces in Afghanistan since 2001, and who was subsequently transferred to Guantanamo Bay where he remains detained without charge.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously wounded in Afghanistan in each year since UK forces entered Helmand province; and how many such casualties were caused by (i) roadside or other pre-positioned devices and (ii) enemy fire in combat. [297021]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD is committed to openly publishing casualty statistics on the number of service personnel killed and wounded on operations. Information on casualties sustained since January 2006 in Afghanistan and information on how each individual was killed is included in their eulogies available on our website

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets

We do not disclose information on how casualties are injured as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the detailed analysis of the net profit and loss accrued from the management of Service Families' Accommodation by Defence Estates in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [296985]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The main constituents of income and expenditure in relation to the management of Service Families Accommodation within the UK for the financial years (FY) 2006-07 to 2008-09 are provided in the following table. Comparable and consistent data prior to FY 2006-07 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£ million

	2006-07	Actual 2007-08	2008-09
Service and rental charges to Annington Homes	146	152	150
Service and rental charges to PFI contractors	21	23	24
Charge in lieu of council tax (CILOCT)	51	53	59
Maintenance costs for reactive, pre-planned maintenance and the strategic facilities programme	136	147	126
Upgrade programme costs to upgrade properties to standard 1 condition	19	30	40
Substitute accommodation provided through open market rental and bulk leasing	18	18	23
Staff costs	19	16	17
Gross cost	410	439	439
Income received from occupants for the property and CILOCT	(125)	(129)	(138)
Net cost to MOD	285	310	301

Accurate and consistent data for overseas Service Family Accommodation is not held centrally.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average monthly rent is for properties rented under the substitute single living accommodation scheme; [297362]

(2) how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* military personnel participate in the substitute single living accommodation scheme. [297386]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) is provided to members of the armed forces in cases where no single living accommodation is available at or near their permanent duty station. As at 23 October 2009, we rented 5,100 SSSA properties across the UK at an average monthly rent of £738.93.

These were occupied by 6,376 entitled Service personnel. The scheme does not extend to civilian personnel.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is entitled to assistance under the substitute single living accommodation scheme. [297387]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All single and married unaccompanied regular armed forces personnel are entitled to substitute service single accommodation (SSSA) when:

There is no suitable single living accommodation available.

They are expected to stay in the SSSA for at least six months and for not less than four nights each week.

They are serving within the UK.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many families of service personnel injured in combat overseas since 1997 have sought advice from his Department on welfare and support in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [296394]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format requested and therefore it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, following the formation of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) in April 2007 the Veterans Welfare Service has proactively provided support to injured personnel as they leave the service and thereafter. In addition the welfare organisations within the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy also provide welfare support to injured personnel while they are still in service. The Veterans Welfare Service also provides support to the dependants of those who have died in service. The level of welfare support offered to the families of Service Personnel killed or injured is the same regardless of the cause or where it occurs. I have provided in the following tables data the SPVA Welfare Support Services hold on the support they have given in these circumstances.

Death in service

April to March each year	National
2007-08	155
2008-09	193
Total	348

Seriously injured

April to March each year	National	England	North East
2007-08	219	216	5
2008-09	98	79	7
Total	317	295	12

Medical discharge

April to March each year	National	England	North East
2007-08	614	513	45
2008-09	836	677	41
Total	1,450	1,190	86

Armed Forces: Meat

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which countries *(a)* beef, *(b)* pork, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* lamb and *(e)* bacon has been procured for consumption by military personnel in each of the last three years. [296960]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Catering, Retail and Leisure (CRL) contracts are being introduced across the UK, which include the feeding of service personnel living in UK units. These account for around 60 per cent. of service personnel fed. CRL incorporates pay as you dine arrangements, the responsibility for food procurement is therefore passed to the CRL contractor and data are [illegible] held in the format requested.

For UK armed forces personnel "in barracks" (when personnel are not being fed under the CRL contracts), and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract for which the following information is available:

Meat	Country of origin
Beef	UK, Uruguay, Brazil, New Zealand/ Australia and other EU
Pork	UK
Chicken	UK, Brazil and other EU
Lamb	UK, Uruguay and New Zealand/ Australia
Bacon, including Gammon	UK and other EU

The county of origin given in the table is for the current financial year. Historical data relating to the country of origin are not held.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much expenditure is expected to be saved through training of each Territorial Army *(a)* squadron and *(b)* battalion; [295481]

(2) what estimate has been made of the likely effect of reductions in Territorial Army (TA) training on numbers of TA personnel; [295482]

(3) how much expenditure is expected to be saved as a result of the proposed reduction in Territorial Army training; and how those savings were calculated. [295485]

Bill Rammell: As the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W, having listened to the representations both in Parliament and elsewhere, the Government have decided to provide an additional £20 million to the Army this year to enable routine training for the TA to continue.

Army

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* brigadiers and *(b)* generals were on the active list in the Army in each year since 1997. [294009]

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many generals of each rank there are in the Army. [296576]

Bill Rammell: The number of Brigadiers and Generals in the Army at 1 April each year since 1997 is provided in the following table.

The ranks of Lt General and Major General have also been included in the table for clarity.

Number

	Paid rank			
1 April	*General*	*Lt General*	*Major General*	*Brigadier*
1997	5	10	43	170
1998	5	10	41	180
1999	6	7	48	180
2000	7	8	47	190
2001	6	8	42	190
2002	6	9	37	180
2003	6	10	46	180
2004	6	10	42	180
2005	7	11	46	180
2006	8	9	43	180
2007	[1]6	[1]12	[1]42	[1]180
2008	[1]6	[1]16	[1]44	[1]190
1 April 2009	[1]5	[1]17	[1]43	[1]190

[1] Provisional

Notes:

1. The figures are for trained Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, TA and all other Reserves.
2. Due to the implementation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System all Army data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
3. Figures less than 100 have been left unrounded so as not to obscure the data.
4. These figures are published regularly in TSP 9 which is available at: www.dasa.mod.uk

This information is held in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Official Visits

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much on average it cost his Department to provide overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials travelling (i) in the UK and (ii) overseas in an official capacity in the latest period for which figures are available. [295648]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested can be found at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

The list includes the total cost of each visit made by all Ministers, detailing the number of officials accompanying them where non-scheduled travel was used, including travel and accommodation. These details are available for the last two financial years and prior to this the information is published for Cabinet Ministers only.

There is not a Cabinet Office requirement for Departments to report ministerial UK travel expenditure. The MOD records this information on the Department's claims and financial systems, however, the data is not held in the requested format. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees of his Department were convicted of an offence of fraud in each of the last 10 years. [297036]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gibraltar: Warships

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Navy ships and *(b)* foreign military ships have docked in Gibraltar in each of the last three years. [296958]

Bill Rammell: The number of ships that have docked in Gibraltar Naval Base in each of the last three complete years is provided as follows:

2006: 72 Royal Navy and seven foreign

2007: 59 Royal Navy and seven foreign

2008: 52 Royal Navy and 12 foreign

2009: As of 28 October 2009, there have been 51 Royal Navy and five foreign naval visits.

Helicopter Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when HMS Ocean is expected to leave service with the fleet. [296941]

Bill Rammell: On present planning assumptions, HMS Ocean will be withdrawn from service in 2022.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason his Department has removed from public access at the National Archives papers on the Nuclear Weapons programme which had previously been released. [297020]

Bill Rammell: Since 2002 a small number of departmental nuclear files have been recalled, re-reviewed and found to have included papers relevant to the operation of the current UK deterrent or of possible proliferation concern. With the agreement of the Lord Chancellor and his Advisory Council, a small amount of material has subsequently been removed from the files and retained within the Department.

RAF Welford

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Devon of 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1408W, on RAF Welford: security, on what date Ministry of Defence Police are expected to withdraw from RAF Welford. [296485]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 153W. The Ministry of Defence police will not be withdrawn from RAF Welford until the necessary security enhancements have been put in place at the base by the United States visiting force. I will write to the hon. Member once this has been done and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the costs of maintaining a complement of Ministry of Defence Police at RAF Welford were in the latest quarter for which figures are available; and who met those costs. [296486]

Bill Rammell: Release of these costs would provide information on the level of policing at RAF Welford. I am therefore withholding this information for the purpose of safeguarding national security. However, I can confirm that the cost of maintaining a Ministry of Defence Police presence at this site falls to the MOD Police and Guarding Agency.

Territorial Army

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who his senior military adviser on the Territorial Army is; and at what rank that advisor serves. [297480]

Bill Rammell: The Chief of the General Staff, General Sir David Richards, is the senior military adviser on all Army matters, including the Territorial Army.

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason no Minister was present at the launch of the Type 45 destroyer Defender on 21 October 2009. [297022]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I regret that a Minister was not in attendance; this was due to a range of factors, including unforeseen urgent parliamentary business. However, the launch was attended by a number of senior personnel, led by the Commander-in-Chief Fleet.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 872W, on community relations: finance, how much funding each organisation will receive from the Community Leadership Fund in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [297346]

Mr. Malik: The Community Leadership Fund allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 broken down by organisation are as follows:

£

Organisation	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Al-Khoei Foundation	30,000.00	0.00
Al-Manaar	50,000.00	50,000.00
Ashram Housing Association	100,000.00	50,000.00
Bold Creative	60,000.00	70,000.00
Bradford Police Club	30,000.00	30,000.00
British Muslim Forum	11,495	0.00
Business in the Community	50,000.00	0.00
Chiltern District Council	3,000.00	0.00
Citizenship Foundation	50,000.00	40,000.00
Dervish Arts	20,000.00	0.00
Ethnic Minority Benevolent Association	50,000.00	50,000.00
Faith Matters (three separate projects)	182,337.50	0.00
Gateshead Interfaith Forum	9,925.00	0.00
GW Theatre	76,600.00	75,200.00
Halton Borough Council	3,000.00	0.00
Henna Foundation	52,525.00	68,250.00
Kali	14,836.66	13,300.00
Karimia Institute	50,000.00	50,000.00
Khayaal Theatre	126,771.00	73,822.00
League of British Muslims	25,000.00	25,000.00
London Metropolitan University	60,000.00	0.00
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board	50,000.00	0.00
Muslim Welfare Association	3,000.00	0.00
Muslim Women's Network UK	20,000.00	30,000.00
Muslim Youth Helpline	61,888.00	64,767.00
Rahabar Trust with the Urdu Times	22,500.00	12,500.00
Somali Family Support Group	15,645.00	33,780.00
The Dialogue Society	33,850.00	32,700.00
The Prince's Trust	52,000.00	54,000.00
Three Faiths Forum	15,000.00	0.00
Timebank (One20)	60,000.00	50,000.00
Ulfah Arts	10,000.00	20,000.00
Unity FM	38,760.00	33,760.00
Urban Nexus	94,400.00	72,100.00
Yorkshire and Humber BME Panel	30,000.00	25,000.00
Zakat Trust (Islamic Society of Britain)	20,000.00	0.00
Zakat Trust (Young Muslims UK)	20,000.00	0.00
Total	1,612,553.16	1,024,179.00

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 479W, on community relations, how much his Department plans to spend on each type of national Prevent-related project in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much funding each organisation undertaking such projects will receive for that work in each such year. [297347]

Mr. Malik: The Department supports Prevent-related national projects in a number of areas including: building community resilience; engaging and empowering young Muslims and Muslim women; local partnerships and delivery; faith capacity and leadership; communications; research and evaluation.

Specific national projects supporting these areas of work and how much the Department plans to spend on these in 2009-10 and 2010-11 is listed as follows:

Specific project	*Organisation*	*Funding in 2009-10 (£)*	*Funding in 2010-11 (£)*
Contextualising Islam in Britain	Cambridge University	56,500	n/a
Islam and Citizenship Education (this is CLG's contribution. DCSF have also contributed jointly)	School Development and Support Agency	60,000	75,000
Radical Middle Way (RMW)	RMW	275,000	TBA
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB)	MINAB	299,000	TBA
FSCU (Charity Commission)	Charity Commission	300,000	TBA
Piloting of the minimum standards for Muslim chaplains engaged by public institutions	Faith Matters	64,130	n/a
Muslim Faith Leader Training Review	Gloucestershire University	159,850	n/a
Improvement and Development Agency, Peer support and review	IDeA	316,518	TBA
Capacity building grant to help improve local Prevent delivery	Government Offices	750,000	750,000
Creative Partnerships to promote positive alternative activities for young people	Creative Partnerships	250,000	250,000
Communications toolkit for local partners to support delivery of local Prevent communications	Bold Creative	20,000	n/a
National research projects:			
(a) Qualitative pilot	Ethnos	52,065	n/a
(b) Literature review	Office for Public Management (OPM)	18,345	n/a
(c) Understanding trends within Islam	Community Relations Initiative Ipsos MORI/ BMRB Consortium	8,130	n/a
(d) Citizenship Survey	—	—	—
National Muslim Womens Advisory Group: supporting three projects:			
(a) Role modelling	Equal to the Occasion	61,980	20,130
(b) Civic participation	Political Skills Forum	35,910	TBA
(c) Examining the role of women from a theological perspective	TBA	TBA	TBA
Young Muslims Advisory Group	Office for Public Management (OPM)	164,883	50,830
Rapid Evaluation Assessment	De Montfort University	42,320	n/a
Building community resilience through the Community Leadership Fund	Full list of organisations listed in *Hansard* 101,368, answered 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 985-6W	1,500,483	1,024,179

Council Tax: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in the level of council tax from one year to the next has been in each county in the East of England in each year since 1999. [296173]

Barbara Follett: Details of the year-on-year change in average Band D council tax for the six county councils in the East of England region are shown in the following table.

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	£ *2009-10*
Bedfordshire	52	52	91	122	92	59	86	61	64	—
Cambridgeshire	62	56	106	97	86	54	59	62	64	56
Essex	60	63	86	155	67	40	57	58	58	35
Hertfordshire	57	40	83	163	67	57	59	63	61	49
Norfolk	51	59	93	140	75	39	62	66	59	46
Suffolk	55	57	108	182	53	36	56	57	50	30

The figures are calculated from data reported on the Budget Requirement (BR1 and BR2) forms submitted annually by all billing and precepting authorities in England.

No figure is given for Bedfordshire for 2009-10 as, following the reorganisation of councils in that county from 1 April 2009, Bedfordshire county council ceased to exist.

The underlying data used in calculating the annual change are calculated by dividing the sum of the council tax requirement for all billing and precepting authorities in the county area by the average Band D council taxbase for the county. No unitary authorities were included in the calculations and the data also exclude the element of the police and fire authority council tax requirement for the unitary authority areas.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* the West Midlands provide details of (i) building control commencement lists and (ii) building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency; and whether the Valuebill/e-BAR interface is used in each case. [296484]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Tables showing which local authorities within *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* the West Midlands regions of England have provided building control commencement lists and building control completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency are shown in the following tables.

The Valuebill/e-BAR interface is not used for the submission of building control commencement lists or building control completion notices.

(a) East

BA	*Commencement lists*	*Completion notices*
Thurrock	Yes	Yes
Southend on Sea	Yes	Yes
Harlow	Yes	Yes
Epping Forest	Yes	Yes
Brentwood	Yes	Yes
Basildon	Yes	Yes
Castle Point	No	Yes
Rochford	Yes	Yes
Maldon	Yes	Yes
Chelmsford	Yes	Yes
Uttlesford	No	No
Braintree	Yes	Yes
Colchester	Yes	Yes
Tendring	No	Yes
Norwich	No	Yes
South Norfolk	Yes	Yes
Great Yarmouth	No	Yes
Broadland	Yes	Yes
North Norfolk	Yes	Yes
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	Yes	Yes
Breckland	No	Yes
Ipswich	No	Yes
Suffolk Coastal	Yes	Yes
Waveney	No	No
Mid Suffolk	No	No
Babergh	Yes	Yes
St. Edmundsbury	Yes	Yes
Forest Heath	No	Yes
Three Rivers	No	No
Watford	Yes	Yes
Hertsmere	Yes	Yes
Welwyn Hatfield	No	No
Broxbourne	No	No
East Hertfordshire	No	No
Stevenage	Yes	Yes
North Hertfordshire	No	No
St. Albans	No	No
Dacorum	No	No
Luton	No	No
Bedford	No	No
Central Bedfordshire	No	No
Cambridge	No	Yes
South Cambridgeshire	No	Yes
Peterborough	No	Yes
East Cambridgeshire	No	Yes
Fenland	No	Yes
Huntingdonshire	No	Yes

(b) West Midlands

BA	*Commencement lists*	*Completion notices*
Bromsgrove	Yes	Yes
Wyre Forest	Yes	Yes
Dudley	Yes	Yes
Redditch	Yes	Yes
Worcester	Yes	Yes
Wychavon	No	No
Herefordshire	Yes	Yes
Malvern Hills	Yes	Yes
Shropshire	No	No
Telford and Wrekin	Yes	Yes
East Staffs	Yes	Yes
Lichfield	Yes	Yes
Newcastle	Yes	Yes
Stafford	Yes	Yes
Staffs Moorlands	Yes	Yes
Tamworth	Yes	Yes
Stoke	Yes	Yes
Cannock Chase	Yes	Yes
South Staffs	No	No
Walsall	No	No
Wolverhampton	Yes	Yes
North Warwickshire	Yes	No
Nuneaton and Bedworth	No	No
Rugby	No	No
Stratford-upon-Avon	No	No
Warwick	No	Yes
Birmingham	Currently no but about to restart	No
Coventry	No	Yes
Sandwell	No	Yes
Solihull	Yes	No

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency takes into account a nearby Traveller encampment as a potential material consideration when valuing a dwelling for council tax purposes. [296990]

Barbara Follett: If a Traveller encampment was in existence on 1 April 1993 (or 1 April 2005 in Wales), or was set up after that date and can be said to have changed the physical state of the locality, it is a factor that can be taken into account when determining the council tax bands of other dwellings, providing that the existence of the camp is not transient.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations within the Operational Efficiency Programme; and if he will make a statement. [296854]

Barbara Follett: My Department is fully engaged in delivering the Operational Efficiency Programme's (OEP) agenda and is harnessing the support of our arm's length bodies to do so.

As recommended by the OEP report I have been appointed VfM Minister for the Department.

The Department has made good progress in considering the key benchmarks to drive performance improvement in back office functions as recommended in the OEP report and is awaiting the publication of that information. It is also well engaged with the collaborative procurement agenda, and has established its own Collaborative Procurement Forum. My Department is represented on the OGC's collaborative procurement steering group which reviews this type of activity in the wider public sector, including the local authorities.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many help lines his Department operates; and how much his Department and its predecessor have received from the operation of such help lines in each of the last three years. [294975]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government do not have a specific helpline. However, it does have a public inquiry line which is a contracted non-automated service. Calls to this line are charged at national rates and no income is derived by the Department from these calls.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295729]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not have any plans to secure accreditation of its telephone information lines to the Helplines Association's quality standard. At present, the Department has no helplines although it does have a public inquiry service which responds to general inquiries made to the Department. However, we are continually seeking to improve the levels of service we provide to the public, and will investigate the benefits of such accreditation.

Fire Services: Pensions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 585W, on fire services: pensions, when he expects the Government Actuary's report on firefighters' pension schemes to be published. [296954]

Barbara Follett: The Government Actuary's report on the firefighters' pension schemes will be issued to the Firefighters' Pension Committee in advance of its meeting on 18 November. Copies will be available from that date also on the Communities and Local Government website, and be placed in the Library.

Housing: Lighting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on the research commissioned by his Department on the proportion of domestic light fittings which will operate with compact fluorescent lamps. [294520]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not commissioned research on the proportion of domestic light fittings which will operate with compact fluorescent lamps.

Local Government Finance: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much Tamworth borough council raised in council tax revenue in each of the last five years; [297202]

(2) how much Tamworth borough council received from central Government in cash terms in each of the last six years; [297203]

(3) what the ratio between central Government funding and council tax revenue for Tamworth borough council was in each of the last eight years. [297204]

Barbara Follett: The information requested on central Government grant in cash terms, the council tax requirement and the ratio between central Government grant and the council tax requirement in each of the last eight years is shown in the following table.

Tamworth borough council

	Central Government grant (£000)	Council tax requirement (£000)	Ratio
2001-02	4,973	2,055	2.42
2002-03	5,135	2,219	2.31
2003-04	6,137	2,383	2.58
2004-05	5,623	2,570	2.19
2005-06	6,523	2,726	2.39
2006-07	7,460	2,865	2.60
2007-08	7,615	3,040	2.50
2008-09[1]	7,823	3,203	2.44

[1] Provisional outturn.

Source:

Communities and local government revenue outturn (RO) returns

Local authority council tax requirement is the council tax available to finance revenue expenditure, not council tax collected.

Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. For 2008-09 it also includes area based grant (ABG).

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Migration Impact Fund

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 50WS, on the migration impacts fund, how much the levy charged on each individual migrant will be; whether it will apply to *(a)* EU nationals, *(b)* EEA nationals not in the EU, *(c)* A2 nationals, *(d)* A8 nationals and *(e)* asylum seekers; and in what circumstances in each case migrants will be (i) required to pay and (ii) exempted from paying. [295837]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Migrants pay a contribution to the migration impacts fund when making visa applications and in-country extensions of leave to remain on all routes under PBS Tiers 1, Tier 2, Tier 4, the Settlement Route, Leave to Remain, Indefinite Leave to Remain and Nationality. The fund contribution is £50 per applicant. For applicants making a Tier 4 visa application the contribution is £20.

EU nationals, EEA nationals not in the EU, A2 nationals, A8 nationals and asylum seekers do not pay a contribution towards the Migrant Impacts Fund when making an application for leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain.

All applicants, including EU nationals, EEA nationals not in the EU, A2 nationals, A8 nationals and asylum seekers, pay a £50 contribution towards the migration impacts fund when making an application for British nationality.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in Birmingham, Northfield constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted assistance under the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [296277]

John Healey: Homeowners Mortgage Support is part of the range of assistance available at every stage to households struggling with their mortgage. The scheme encourages lenders to allow households who have suffered a temporary income shock to defer some of their interest payment, if this is necessary to make their monthly payment affordable. The Department plans to publish information in December on the number of households who have been helped through Homeowners Mortgage Support. Statistics from the Financial Services Authority show that more than 135,000 borrowers were benefiting from forbearance offered by their lender at the end of June 2009, an increase of 17 per cent. on the previous quarter.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons business revaluation transitional relief will not apply to supplementary business rates from April 2010. [294126]

Barbara Follett: Transitional relief is provided to limit and phase in significant increases in business rate liability resulting from the regular five yearly revaluation of business rates. The majority of business properties—60 per cent.—will see their rates liability fall as a result of the 2010 revaluation. The minority facing large increases will benefit from £2 billion worth of transitional relief.

Transitional relief is a national scheme which is funded by other business ratepayers. Extending it to increases resulting from the introduction of a local business rate supplement would raise the possibility of ratepayers in parts of the country, where rateable values have gone down as a result of revaluation, being asked to pay for relief on an increase which does not result from revaluation but is, instead, the result of a local business rate supplement that is not being levied in their area and, therefore, not bringing any benefits to them.

Any increase in a ratepayer's liability due to a local decision to levy a supplement on the business rate to fund additional projects to promote the economic development of the local area is independent of revaluation 2010. Transitional relief is not, and has never been, intended to target increases in liability resulting from factors other than revaluation—for instance, increases resulting from a property's rateable value rising above the rateable value thresholds which determine whether it is eligible for other rate reliefs, or whether it is liable to pay a local supplement on the national non-domestic rate. Where a local authority exercises its discretionary power to levy a business rate supplement, it has discretion to set the rateable value threshold below which a property is exempt from paying the supplement anywhere above a minimum of £50,000 rateable value.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1131W, on non-domestic rates, whether the 2010-11 multipliers which will take into account the 2010 revaluation and negative level of Retail Price Index inflation will be adjusted to entail a cash terms *(a)* reduction in overall tax yield, *(b)* freeze in the overall tax yield and *(c)* increase in the overall tax yield; and what his most recent estimate is of the level of business rates tax yield in 2010-11. [295733]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The multipliers are set in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the increases in the business rates multipliers each year are capped by the previous September's RPI. Under the same legislation, the multipliers will also be adjusted to ensure that the overall tax yield does not increase as a result of the 2010 revaluation. The Government have no plans to amend the way that the multipliers are calculated.

The most recent estimate of business rates gross revenue for 2010-11 is £23,445,000,000. This is consistent with the figure in the consultation document "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation", published on July 8, 2009. The document can be found on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

This is a broad estimate and does not take account of the impact that the September RPI inflation will have on the multipliers, transitional relief or any other reliefs applicable to businesses.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 131W, on non-domestic rates: empty property, whether the rateable value threshold for empty property rate relief of £2,200 will be increased to reflect the average uplift in rateable values consequent on the 2010 business rates revaluation. [297430]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: The Government have already announced that the rateable value thresholds for small business rate relief, rural rate relief and stud farm relief will be increased in line with the overall effect of the revaluation from 1 April 2010 and will make an announcement on the rateable value threshold for empty property rates later this year.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria are applied in cases where he personally intervenes to fix a date for an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. [295634]

Mr. Ian Austin: Procedural guidance on inquiries is on the Planning Portal website:

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/procedural_guidance_planning_appeals.pdf

A Good Practice Advice Note on bespoke casework is also on the Planning Portal website:

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/pins-gpa-5-2009 bespoke-casework.pdf

Police: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the salaries of senior local authority officers will be published; and if he will make a statement. [297085]

Barbara Follett: New legislation requiring disclosure of senior salaries in local authorities will come into force on March 31 2010, requiring detailed disclosure of remuneration in the statement of account for 2009-10 onwards. The government's response to the statutory consultation was published on October 22 2009 and can be found on the CLG website:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/1364495

Roads: Lighting

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect on *(a)* energy usage and *(b)* expenditure of the installation of environmentally-friendly LED street lights. [297000]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

No analysis has been carried out specifically to estimate the energy usage and cost of LED street lighting. However, DEFRA is in the process of updating its 2008 consultation on sustainable products. The consultation is published via the Government's Market Transformation Programme and more information is available on its website at:

www.mtprog.com/cms/whitepaper

The updated paper includes a section on the energy efficiency of street and traffic lighting and will be published shortly for consultation.

Tenant Services Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Tenant Services Authority will cease operating under the legal powers granted to the Housing Corporation. [297428]

Mr. Ian Austin: We are working towards commencing the Tenant Services Authority's new powers under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 on 1 April 2010.

Tenant Services Authority: Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the statutory consultation on the Tenant Services Authority's standards framework will commence; and how long he expects it to last. [297427]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Statutory consultation on TSA's standards framework is due to commence this month. It is expected to run for 12 weeks.

Tony Clements

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 656W, on Tony Clements, whether Mr. Clements was appointed to the post as Policy Adviser through a process of open competition; whether the job vacancy filled by Mr. Clements was advertised on the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway; and whether his position is subject to standard Civil Service terms and conditions. [292981]

Barbara Follett: Mr. Clements was recruited through a fixed-term appointment, under one of the permitted exceptions for fair and open competition contained in the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles. There is no automatic requirement to advertise such appointments through open competition or on the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway, and this post was not advertised through either route. This position is subject to standard Civil Service terms and conditions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Offices

Mr. Carswell: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) how many unutilised square metres of office space there were on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate in each year since the opening of the 2005 Parliament; [296425]

(2) how many empty offices there are on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate. [296426]

Nick Harvey: The number of vacant rooms on the House of Commons estate fluctuates constantly as requirements change or maintenance work is carried out. Only records of current vacancies are maintained.

At present there are 14 unoccupied offices on the estate with a total area of 230m^2. Six of these offices are vacant to enable major roof works to take place in the area known as the "Yellow Submarine" north of Speaker's Court.

There are 2,100m^2 of, open plan offices leased in No. 4 Millbank for use as decant space. Of this, 500m^2 is currently vacant, awaiting fit-out.

There are also 2,800m^2 of vacant, open plan space which is the House of Commons' area of No. 14 Tothill street, a building leased in October 2007 and shared with the House of Lords. This area will be fitted out and available for use by the Department of Resources in autumn 2010.

Refreshment Department: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much subsidy was provided for each *(a)* eatery and *(b)* bar in the House of Commons part of the Palace of Westminster in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the most recent estimate is of the level of usage of each such outlet by (A) hon. Members, (B) visitors, (C) hon. Members' staff and (D) House staff. [296137]

Nick Harvey: The House does not provide a subsidy for individual eateries and bars. In 2008-09 the overall net cost incurred by the catering and retail directorate in the Department of Facilities was some £6.1 million, in accordance with the budget approved by the Finance and Services Committee. This represents the difference between income and the cost of the services provided. Food and drink pricing is agreed by the Finance and Services Committee, with advice from the Administration Committee.

With the exception of the Terrace cafeteria and the Debate self-service restaurant, no information is kept on the level of usage of each outlet by different types of pass holders. An annual survey is conducted in the Terrace cafeteria and the Debate self-service restaurant in order to assess the customer profile over a peak-lunch period. The last survey was held in May 2009, when usage of these outlets was as follows:

Customer group	*Terrace cafeteria*		*The Debate*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
(a) MPs	90	10	107	8
(b) Visitors (accompanied guests)	52	6	98	7
(c) MPs' Staff	146	16	580	43
(d) Staff of both Houses/Security/ other full pass-holders	499	56	401	30
(e) Member House of Lord	21	2	9	1
(f) Members' Staff (House of Lords)	16	2	45	3
(g) Press & Media	21	2	5	—
(h) Other	50	6	104	8
Total	895	100	1,349	100

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders have received an anti-social behaviour order plus sentence upon conviction in England in the last three years. [293130]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued is available up to 31 December 2007. The number of ASBOs issued following conviction for a criminal offence at all courts in England during 2005, 2006 and 2007 were 2,684; 1,671 and 1,228 respectively.

Asylum

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* asylum applications and *(b)* applications for leave to remain were successful in each of the last five years; what percentage of applications of each type which were refused were then granted following an appeal in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [293060]

Mr. Woolas: Data on the number of applications for asylum and leave to remain and applications refused are available in the Home Office statistical bulletin "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom, 2008". This publication and future publications may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether enforced returns were suspended for any period of time for nationals or particular groups of nationals from *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Somalia, *(c)* Eritrea, *(d)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(e)* Afghanistan and *(f)* Iran between 2000 and 2009. [295060]

Mr. Woolas: The following information covers situations where there was a policy to suspend enforced returns and situations where there was a policy to grant Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR) to all nationals of a particular country, or part of it, who did not qualify for asylum and which was an effective suspension of returns of failed asylum seekers.

There was an effective suspension of enforced returns to all of Iraq from before 2000 until October 2000. From October 2000 until February 2003 returns to central and southern Iraq were suspended. From February 2003 enforced returns to all of Iraq were again suspended. On 24 February 2004 the Home Secretary announced that enforced returns to Iraq were to resume.

There was an effective suspension of enforced returns to the whole of Somalia since before 2000 until July 2001. From July 2001 until October 2002 the policy was varied enabling return of those from the Somaliland and Puntland regions of Somalia. There has been no suspension of enforced returns to any part of Somalia since 7 October 2002.

Enforced returns to Eritrea have not been suspended in this period.

Enforced returns to the Democratic Republic of Congo were suspended from 23 August 2007 until 3 December 2008 pending the outcome of litigation.

There was an effective suspension of enforced returns to Afghanistan from before 2000 until 11 July 2002. There has been no suspension of enforced returns since that date.

Enforced returns to Iran have not been suspended in this period.

Asylum: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in Coventry were granted asylum in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 1997. [295341]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* The information is as follows.

(a) During the calendar year 2008, the midlands and east regional asylum team granted 76 cases where the main applicant resided at a Coventry postcode (which includes some of the geographical area in the surrounding county of Warwickshire). Grants of asylum may also have been made in other caseworking areas, but this additional data are not available in a specific regional format. The figure therefore only relates to applications which were handled through the regional asylum team.

(b) Data for specific geographical areas was not recorded prior to the implementation of the new asylum model process in March 2007. There are therefore no specific data for this calendar year.

Asylum: Young People

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department has made on its programme to reform support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people. [295254]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* The UASC Reform Programme set out a number of reforms to the way unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are supported. We are continuing to work with local authorities and others in a number of areas including:

developing a model of grant arrangements that provides more clarity and certainty over funding;

exploring improvements to the method and process for assessment age; and

considering how UASC and former UASC might be returned to support arrangements in their countries of origin in a way that is safe and sustainable.

The range of reforms and policy improvements we are making are being progressed and implemented at different stages.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of its grant to local authorities to meet the costs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people over the age of 16. [295255]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* We are satisfied the grant arrangements are adequate.

Local authority costs in supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children for the period up until the end of the financial year 2007-08 have been reimbursed in full as part of an agreement between the UK Border Agency and the Local Government Association (LGA). Funding claims for the financial year 2008-09 are still being checked. The grant for the financial year 2009-10 is very similar to the arrangements agreed with the LGA, with the exception that from October cash ceilings have been placed on indirect costs.

Cheshire Constabulary: Construction

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps *(a)* Cheshire police and *(b)* executive agencies of his Department are taking to (i) ensure that the supply chain completing the Pierse contracting construction project is paid and (ii) alleviate the financial problems of small and medium-sized businesses involved in that project. [296989]

Mr. Hanson: The management of local contracts is a matter for the chief officer and chair of the police authority.

Cocaine

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantity of cocaine was seized at *(a)* Gatwick and *(b)* Heathrow airports in each month between April 2008 and March 2009. [296478]

Mr. Woolas: From April 2008 until March 2009, a total of 1,158.42 kilos of cocaine were seized by UKBA officers working in the Border Force South Region, which includes Gatwick airport and all ports along the South Coast. During the same period a total of 434.23 kilos of cocaine were seized by UKBA officers in the Heathrow region.

The following tables provide a monthly breakdown of these seizures.

South region

	Cocaine quantity (kilos)
April 2008	62.50
May 2008	87.06
June 2008	69.59
July 2008	165.42
August 2008	50.20
September 2008	167.11
October 2008	105.54
November 2008	45.25
December 2008	43.97
January 2009	24.43
February 2009	299.88
March 2009	37.47
Period total	1,158.42

Heathrow region

	Cocaine quantity (kilos)
April 2008	26.16
May 2008	30.31
June 2008	77.08
July 2008	45.53
August 2008	32.91
September 2008	18.25
October 2008	44.54
November 2008	78.35
December 2008	16.37
January 2009	18.60
February 2009	24.87
March 2009	21.27
Period total	434.23

The above data have been extracted from locally-collated management information. It is provisional and therefore may be subject to change.

Crime: Nature Conservation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been provided to each police authority to tackle wildlife crime in each year since 1997. [296064]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Total revenue provision for policing grants in 2009-10 is almost £9.5 billion, an overall increase of 2.8 per cent. over 2008-09. The main element is general formula grant (£8.3 billion), which can be spent entirely at the discretion of police authorities—so the amount they spend on tackling wildlife crime is their decision.

Chief constables and police authorities have maximum flexibility to make best possible use of resources to maintain the historically high number of police officers and have the right workforce balance they need to deliver local priorities.

The Home Office takes wildlife crime seriously and has contributed £150,000 in 2009-10 towards the costs of the National Wildlife Crime Unit, which provides expert support to forces in investigation and enforcement of wildlife crime.

Departmental Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of his Department have been convicted of an offence related to fraud in each of the last 10 years. [295706]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: We are aware of 13 members of staff within Home Office HQ, the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, who have been convicted of an offence relating to financial fraud in the last 10 years.

A breakdown by year is as follows:

	Number
2000	0
2001	[1]—
2002	[1]—
2003	[1]—
2004	[1]—
2005	[1]—
2006	[1]—
2007	[1]—
2008	[1]—
2009 (to 22 October)	[1]—

[1] Less than five.

Where less than five members of staff were convicted in a calendar year further information has been withheld on confidentiality grounds.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290568]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is shown in the following table.

IT Systems in development for use within last five years	*Reason for development of IT Systems*	*How much has been spent on development of IT Systems*	*IT Systems that have been implemented*	*IT Systems terminated prior to implementation*	*IT Systems terminated post implementation*
National identity Scheme—IPS element	Delivery of the Next Generation Passport and ID Services	£4.945 billion planned total spend (including IT Systems, IT enabled Business Transformation and operating costs) Till 2013.	Programme is on Schedule, with implementation phases from end 2009 to 2013.	n/a	n/a

IT Systems in development for use within last five years	*Reason for development of IT Systems*	*How much has been spent on development of IT Systems*	*IT Systems that have been implemented*	*IT Systems terminated prior to implementation*	*IT Systems terminated post implementation*
EPA2 project	Upgrade online passport application process in 2006	£10.8 million capital and £1.9 million resource		Terminated prior to implementation 6 May 2007.	n/a
Interview Office Network	IT Systems to support interview of first time passport applicants	£13.2 million Planned Total	Core IT system called ABIOS. Network Infrastructure to 68 ION offices, integration to existing Passport Processing system	n/a	n/a
Digitisation of Vital Events	Digitisation of General Register Office registration records	£8.33 million total project cost	Digitisation of approx 50 per cent. of registration records. Project now closed and a new project is being set-up to complete the digitisation work and to deliver an integrated technology suite. Records digitised in the DoVE project are currently being used by GRO for the production of certificates.	n/a	n/a
Registration On-Line	General Register Office System for recording birth, death, civil partnership and marriage registrations—used by GRO and Local Authorities.	£17.6 million planned capital and set-up costs (projected through to 2011)	The RON system has been rolled-out to all local authorities in England and Wales for civil partnerships, births and deaths. The marriage roll-out will commence in November 2009.	n/a	n/a
Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals	Infrastructure required to implement identity cards for foreign nationals, building on existing systems wherever possible	£13.2 million—Planned total ongoing scheme	November 2008	n/a	n/a
Immigration Casework (ICW)	Enable improvements to processing of immigration casework: specifically Improved efficiency Improve quality and consistency of decisions Improve the service provided Implement more flexible IT systems	Programme Spend to date: £55 million.	The first pilot releases went live on 31 March 2009 and 3 August 2009 (as planned) further releases (three per annum) are planned until 2014-15	n/a	n/a
		Agreed Programme Spend by end of 2015-16: £370 million.			
Points Based System (PBS)	PBS is a simplified one-stop migration process for those who wish to work, train or study in the UK. Prospective migrants are judged using objective criteria to ensure consistency.	£39.8 million—Planned total to 2010	July 2009, next release is due October 2009. Final release scheduled for February 2010	n/a	n/a
e-Borders	E-Borders enables the UK Border Agency to check people before they reach the UK..	The planned cost to Government is £1.2 billion between financial years 2007-08 and 2017-18	Project IRIS, a pilot biometric automated barrier entry system for pre-registered passengers at selected ports in the UK was piloted from 20 June 2005 to May 2006. IRIS was transferred to operational business in July 2007.	n/a	n/a
	E-Borders protects the public, improving the security, efficiency and effectiveness of border controls by enabling us to target criminals and illegal immigrants		Project Semaphore, an operational prototype for the main e-Borders Programme which was transferred to operational business in April 2008.		

IT Systems in development for use within last five years	*Reason for development of IT Systems*	*How much has been spent on development of IT Systems*	*IT Systems that have been implemented*	*IT Systems terminated prior to implementation*	*IT Systems terminated post implementation*
			The Joint Border Operations Centre (JBOC) went live in January 2005, as the operational hub of Project Semaphore. Responsibility for the operation of the JBOC was transferred to Intelligence and National Operations Command on 1 June 2008, but remains closely aligned to the UK's e-Borders programme. It continues to inform the design and development of e-Borders and to deliver operational benefits to stakeholders.		
SBS Programme	SBS built on the original ERP implementation programme to further enhance both the functionality and breadth of the Finance, HR and Procurement services in the Home Office for 23,000 users.	£35.9 million total project cost till 2011	Expanded and enhanced enterprise resource planning (ERP) functionality, implemented in progressive [illegible]s between May 2008 [illegible] April 2009.	n/a	n/a
Vetting and Barring Scheme	Modifications to the IT systems of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) to support the vetting and barring scheme, established by the safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. New casework management systems.	£22.8 million capital and set up costs planned over five years £20.3 million operational costs over five years.	April 2009	n/a	n/a
		£15.1 million expenditure to March 2009. Implementation is current and ongoing for these systems			
Next Generation IST Transformation Programme (NGISTT)	To assist the Home Office Group to deliver its objectives by giving businesses the shared IST infrastructure and services they need to work together in the most productive and cost effective way and to safeguard their information assets.	Spend to date is £3.12 million.		n/a	n/a
		Planned investment (Extend and Blend) is £86 million. Future programme spend is yet to be determined.			

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296086]

Mr. Woolas: General mail services used by the Home Department are via the Royal Mail and the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Secure mail services for the Identity and Passport Service are contracted to DX Secure Mail Services. The contract expires in July 2010.

Mail services for the Criminal Records Bureau are provided under the PPP Agreement for the Disclosure processing service with Capita Business Services which expires on 11 March 2012.

The Department does not hold central courier contracts nor is information held centrally on all the couriers it uses. Services for TNT are contracted through the OGC framework for courier services, which expires in August 2012. Other firms which have been used by the Department or its agencies either regularly or from time to time include:

Royal Mail Holdings plc
Secure Mail Services
Pitney Bowes Inc.
FP Teleset
A to Z Couriers Ltd.
Dale Express Ltd.
Kurier Ltd.
Fiveways Express Transport Ltd.
Francotyp-Postalia Holding AG
Deutsche Post AG
Government Car and Despatch Agency
Neopost SA
Bonds Worldwide Couriers
The Courier and Passenger Transport Group Ltd.
Postage by Phone
Ing Groep N.V.
Horley Couriers
Panic Express Carriers
Die Schweizerische Post
Motor Cycle Despatch Services
FP Executive Agency Ltd.
Lewis Day Transport plc
Kwik Kourier
Parcelforce Worldwide
CT (UK) Ltd. T/A City Couriers
Netfold Ltd.
UK Couriers (Liverpool) Ltd.
A One Taxis
Kanga Couriers
Hobarts Acrylics Ltd.
City Cabs
Admail Holdings Ltd.
Lightning Transport Group Ltd.
Rico Logistics Partnership
Central Despatch.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296006]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office is implementing the Operational Efficiency programme (OEP) as part of the Department's mainstream Value for Money programme. The Department has a strong record of delivery against value for money targets demonstrating its sustained, long term commitment to this work.

The Home Secretary has taken upon himself, the role of the Department's value for money Minister. By the end of 2007-08, the Department achieved gains worth £2,855m per annum of which £1,552 million per annum was cashable. Following the publication of the OEP the Department has taken steps to benchmark back office activities, as part of its renewed focus on securing maximum cost-effectiveness in both direct and indirect costs.

A wide range of learning and development opportunities are available across the Department for officials and Ministers, many of which are focused on delivering value for money in Home Office activities. This includes specific value for money training for members for the senior civil service as part of the wider finance improvement strategy that the Public Account Committee celebrated recently (HoC 640).

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295722]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office Department has already rationalised many of its helplines and are moving to ensure that call costs to its helplines are free or are kept to a minimum. The Department seeks to align its telephony services to the guidance and rules set out by Ofcom, the communications regulator which answers to Parliament but is independent of Government. Ofcom is tasked with making sure that people in the UK get the best from their communications services and has a general duty to further the interests of citizens and of consumers.

We also work closely with the Central Office of Information (COI) which is the Government's centre of excellence for marketing and communications to ensure our telephone services are in line with industry standards and are aligned to the quality and service standards of other Government Departments.

We will continue to seek ways to improve our telephony services and will consider the merits of the Helpline Association's standards as well as other associations or bodies to ensure we strive to deliver a communications service (including telephony) that meets the public need.

Detainees

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were held in each immigration removal centre in 2008-09. [295629]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not available; the Home Office has however published for the first time in August 2009 the number of people entering each removal centre in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1 and Q2 2009. This information will be published quarterly in the future; however data for earlier years will remain unavailable. This information is available in table 8a and 8b of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209.pdf

and from the Library of the House.

National Statistics on how many people are detained on a quarterly snapshot basis by place of detention is available in table 9 of the above publication.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been fined for using mobile telephones while driving in *(a)* England, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since 2003. [296449]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on court fines (provided by the Ministry of Justice) as well as fixed penalty notices issued by the police for using mobile telephones while driving in England and Cleveland police force area, covering 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is provided in tables A and B.

It is not possible to separately identify fines issued to drivers in Teesside and Middlesbrough south as the data reported to the Home Office and Ministry of Justice are broken down by police force area level only.

Table A: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-07

	Number of offences				
Police force area	*2003[2]*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	1,888	70,494	122,748	158,605	115,406
North East Region[3]	69	2841	5327	6515	5271
Cleveland police force area	13	1,066	1,955	2263	1495

[1] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.

[2] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110(3). Introduced 1 December 2003.

[3] Includes Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police force areas.

Table B: The number of persons fined at all courts for offences of using a hand held mobile phone while driving[1], in England, the North East Government Office Region[2] and Cleveland police force area, from 2004 to 2007[3, 4]

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[5]*
England	350	992	1,225	9,653
North East region	23	24	84	438
Cleveland police force area	1	5	9	86

[1] Statute: Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 - R.110(1), R.110(2) and R.110(3). Introduced 1 December 2003.
Offence description:
R.110(1) use of a hand held mobile phone while driving;
R.110(2) causing or permitting the use of a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle
R.110(3) using a mobile phone while supervising the holder of a provisional driving licence to drive a motor vehicle on the road.

[2] Includes Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police force areas.

[3] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Tough new penalties for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving and for failing to have proper control of a vehicle came into effect on 27 February 2007.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Driving Under Influence: Cycling

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while in charge of a bicycle in each police authority area in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [296445]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offences "Pedal cyclist driving under the influence of drink or drugs" under section 30 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act and "Being drunk in charge of a carriage (a bicycle is a carriage within the meaning of this Act), horse, cattle or steam engine" under section 12 of the 1872 Licensing Act, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following tables. Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The alcohol related offences presented in the table are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

The Ministry of Justice do not centrally collect charging data; proceeded against information has been provided in lieu.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the offences "Pedal cyclist driving under the influence of drink or drugs"[1] (section 30 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act) and "Being drunk while in charge on any highway or other public place of any carriage[2], horse, cattle or steam Engine" (section 12 of the 1872 Licensing Act), in England and Wales, broken down by force[3], 2003 to 2007[4] [5]

		Pedal cyclist driving under the influence of drink or drugs[1]									
		Proceeded against					Found guilty				
	Force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
13713	Avon and Somerset	1	2	3	3	—	1	2	3	3	—
	Bedfordshire	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
	Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	City of London	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
	Cleveland	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Cumbria	1	1	2	1	—	1	1	2	1	—
	Derbyshire	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	—	1

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the offences "Pedal cyclist driving under the influence of drink or drugs"[1] (section 30 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act) and "Being drunk while in charge on any highway or other public place of any carriage[2], horse, cattle or steam Engine" (section 12 of the 1872 Licensing Act), in England and Wales, broken down by force[3], 2003 to 2007[4, 5]

		Pedal cyclist driving under the influence of drink or drugs[1]									
		Proceeded against					Found guilty				
	Force	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Devon and Cornwall	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1
	Dorset	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	—
	Durham	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	1	—
	Essex	—	2	1	3	—	—	2	—	3	—
	Greater Manchester	7	2	1	—	2	6	2	1	—	1
	Hampshire	4	3	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	1
	Hertfordshire	1	2	8	1	1	1	2	8	1	1
	Humberside	3	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	1	2
	Kent	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	—
	Lancashire	—	2	1	1	1	—	2	1	1	—
	Leicestershire	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
	Lincolnshire	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1
	Merseyside	—	2	1	2	4	—	2	1	2	4
	Metropolitan Police	4	4	3	5	2	4	3	1	4	2
	Norfolk	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
	North Yorkshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	Northumbria	7	6	7	6	4	6	4	5	5	4
	Nottinghamshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	South Yorkshire	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Staffordshire	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
	Suffolk	2	1	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	1
	Surrey	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	Sussex	1	1	2	2	—	1	1	2	2	—
	Thames Valley	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
	Warwickshire	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
	West Mercia	1	3	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	3
	West Midlands	1	1	3	2	7	1	1	3	1	5
	West Yorkshire	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
	Wiltshire	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Dyfed-Powys	—	3	3	3	1	—	3	3	2	1
	Gwent	1	—	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
	North Wales	3	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—
	South Wales	4	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1
	England and Wales	55	45	51	55	40	43	40	44	46	31

		Being drunk while in charge on any highway or other public place of any carriage[2], horse, cattle or steam engine									
		Proceeded against					Found guilty				
	Force	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
14102	Avon and Somerset	1	2	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	—
	Bedfordshire	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—
	Cambridgeshire	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	2	—
	Cheshire	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4	—
	City of London	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Cleveland	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	Cumbria	1	4	4	1	—	1	4	4	1	—
	Derbyshire	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	2	1
	Durham	1	—	4	2	—	1	—	4	2	—
	Essex	—	2	2	1	1	—	1	2	1	1
	Gloucestershire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Greater Manchester	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
	Hampshire	6	1	—	1	1	3	1	—	1	1

	Being drunk while in charge on any highway or other public place of any carriage[2], horse, cattle or steam engine									
	Proceeded against					Found guilty				
Force	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Hertfordshire	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	1
Kent	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1
Lancashire	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	—	2	—
Leicestershire	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Merseyside	1	3	3	4	1	1	3	2	2	1
Metropolitan Police	8	5	15	8	8	6	4	15	6	4
Norfolk	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	1
North Yorkshire	—	6	2	3	2	—	5	2	3	2
Northamptonshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	5	16	14	14	12	5	14	13	13	10
Nottinghamshire	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Staffordshire	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Surrey	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Thames Valley	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
West Mercia	2	3	4	2	2	2	2	4	1	2
West Midlands	4	6	4	1	2	3	6	4	1	1
West Yorkshire	2	1	—	4	—	2	—	—	1	—
Wiltshire	2	2	1	1	—	2	2	1	1	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	43	64	65	67	40	34	51	60	51	31

— = Nil.

[1] The number of persons proceeded against and found guilty for driving under the influence of drinks or drugs cannot be separately identified under this statute.

[2] A bicycle, whether ridden or pushed, is a carriage within the meaning of this Act. The number of persons proceeded against or found guilty of being drunk in charge of a carriage cannot be separated from those involving a horse, cattle or steam engine.

[3] Nil data applies if a Police Force Area is not listed in the above tables.

[4] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ref: IOS 510-09

Drugs: Smuggling

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted of offences relating to the unlawful importation or exportation of drugs in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those convicted received the maximum available sentence. [296659]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The number of offenders issued with a caution and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the unlawful importation or exportation of drugs in England and Wales, from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is given in tables 1 and 2 respectively.

The number of defendants given the maximum available custodial sentence for offences relating to import or export of a controlled drug in England and Wales, from 1998 to 2007, is given in table 3.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[4] for offences relating to the unlawful importation or exportation of controlled drugs, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[2, 3]

Statute/offence description	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Customs and Excise Management Act 1979: Offence in relation to the unlawful 'importation' of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	29	16	5	3	1	6	9	15	10	11

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[1] for offences relating to the unlawful importation or exportation of controlled drugs, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[2, 3]

Statute/offence description	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Customs and Excise Management Act 1979: Offence in relation to the unlawful 'exportation' of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	5	8	11	1	6	6	8	4	24	6

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the unlawful importation or exportation of controlled drugs, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	1998		*1999*		*2000*		*2001*		*2002*	
Statute/ offence description	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Customs and Excise Management Act 1979: Offence in relation to the unlawful 'importation' of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	1,300	1,190	1,280	1,171	1,201	1,165	1,752	1,648	1,624	1,599
Customs and Excise Management Act 1979: Offence in relation to the unlawful 'exportation' of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	112	59	74	25	51	40	22	30	30	21

	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
Statute/ offence description	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Customs and Excise Management Act 1979: Offence in relation to the unlawful 'importation' of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	1,081	1,063	945	975	1,057	1,026	874	835	818	783

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Statute/ offence description	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Customs and Excise Management Act 1979: Offence in relation to the unlawful 'exportation' of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	28	18	18	37	25	35	30	35	38	36

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[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Where the 'found guilty' column exceeds the 'proceeded against' column it may be the case that a defendant was found guilty at the Crown court in the year following the year in which proceedings took place, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to that proceeded against.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence and Analysis unit.

Table 3: Defendants given maximum available custodial sentence for offences relating to import or export of controlled drug[1], 1998 to 2007

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Import[2]	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Export[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Customs and Excise Management Act 1979. Offences in relation to the unlawful importation/exportation of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

[2] Maximum available sentence for import of class A or other class is life imprisonment, for class B and C it is 14 years.

[3] Maximum available sentence for export of class A or other class is life imprisonment, for class B and C it is 14 years.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has taken account of the published anti-Semitic views of any individuals seeking to enter the United Kingdom when deciding whether to grant entry to such individuals in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [283707]

Mr. Woolas: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 462W and would re-affirm that where there is clear, reliable evidence that a person has engaged in unacceptable behaviour, which would include inciting racial or religious hatred, consideration will be given to whether or not that person should be refused entry to the United Kingdom.

This may be at the entry clearance application stage, where applicable, or when a person arrives at the port of entry. In certain cases the Home Secretary may personally decide that a person should be excluded from the United Kingdom.

Figures on the number of refusals of entry to the United Kingdom on the basis of the published anti-Semitic views of individuals are not recorded centrally.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the time taken by the UK Border Agency to process applications by European nationals for permanent residence. [293114]

Mr. Woolas: The length of time taken by UK Border Agency to determine applications submitted by European nationals for permanent residence is subject to a number of factors—both internal and external to the Agency. Internally UK Border Agency has had to refocus resource and this has impacted on the Agency's ability to deal with applications as quickly as we would wish. Externally, the number of incomplete applications received has led to delays in the caseworking process.

On both counts, we have introduced a number of measures in the past six months to improve performance. The Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 stipulate this documentation should be issued as soon as possible after an application and proof of entitlement have been submitted. If an application is not submitted with adequate supporting evidence then delays are necessarily incurred as that information is obtained.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil and unmarried partners of UK residents who are from outside the European Economic Area have been admitted to the UK in each of the last five years. [295688]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The available information is provided in the following table.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey are published in table 1.2 of the Home Office publication "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008" which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Passengers[1, 2] entering the United Kingdom as civil and unmarried partners, 2004-08, United Kingdom

Number of journeys

	2004[3]	2005	2006	2007[4]	2008[5]
Total civil partners[6]	n/a	n/a	105	1,890	1,955
Of which					
Proposed civil partner	n/a	n/a	5	*	5
Civil partner admitted for a probationary period	n/a	n/a	100	1,890	1,930
Civil partner given indefinite leave to enter	n/a	n/a	—	—	20
Total unmarried partners[7]	90	115	290	190	335
Of which					
Common law spouse admitted for a probationary period[8]	45	55	110	110	295
Same sex partner admitted for probationary period[9]	50	55	185	80	40

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Excludes EEA and Swiss nationals.

[3] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.

[4] Excludes Bulgaria and Romania.

[5] Provisional figures.

[6] The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force on 5 December 2005.

[7] In table 2.1 of Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom 2008 the figure for 'civil and unmarried partners and proposed civil partners' for 2006 excludes unmarried partners. This will be corrected in table 1 of Control of Immigration Statistics Summary, United Kingdom July to September 2009, scheduled for publication on 26 November 2009.

[8] Includes common-law spouse of a diplomat admitted for a probationary period.

[9] Includes same sex partner of a diplomat admitted for a probationary period.

Source:

Migration Statistics, Home Office.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were denied entry to the UK because of concerns about their extremist views in the last 12 months. [295865]

Mr. Woolas: A decision to deny entry to the UK may be made at the entry clearance application stage, or when a person arrives at the port of entry. Additionally, denial of entry may include individuals who have either been deported from, or removed and subsequently excluded from, the United Kingdom and in certain cases the Home Secretary may personally decide that an individual should be excluded from the United Kingdom on unacceptable behaviour grounds.

There are no centrally held records which encompass the total number of foreign nationals who have been denied entry to the UK because of concerns about their extremist views, but the Government's unacceptable behaviours policy is directed at those who advocate hatred or violence in support of their beliefs.

I can confirm that since October 2008 the Home Secretary has excluded 27 individuals from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) from the UK on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour. During the same period, two EEA nationals have been refused admission on public policy grounds linked to their advocacy of racial or religious hatred.

Entry Clearances: Russia

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the efficiency of the system for visa applications in operation in Moscow. [296266]

Mr. Woolas: During June and July it took 15 working days to process short-term visa applications (for stays of up to 12 months), and 28 days to process student visa applications (under Tier 4 of the Points Based System). The relevant agreed global targets are:

Straightforward, non-settlement applications: 90 per cent. to be processed in five working days, and 98 per cent. in 15.

Non-straightforward non-settlement applications (includes those under PBS): 90 per cent. to be processed in 15 working days, 98 per cent. in 30.

The extended processing times were publicised at the time via the Russian Commercial Partner's website, and through the Moscow UK Border Agency User Panel, with visa applicants encouraged to apply in good time in advance of proposed travel dates.

In order to ensure that students were able to travel to commence their courses on time, a dedicated team of Entry Clearance Officers was set up to deal with student applications. Other visa applications were also prioritised, where appropriate, and applications in the following categories generally processed within the global target of five working days i.e. applications from (a) previous travellers, (b) the four Regional Visa Application Centres outside Moscow (acknowledging the longer transit time), and (c) business people enrolled in a local Trusted Partner scheme. All backlogs were cleared by the end of September.

A full staffing complement of five ECMs and 14 ECOs is now in place.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of any likely cost savings arising from the proposed closure of Forensic Science Service sites. [296132]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The primary goal of the FSS transformation is to build a more robust and resilient business that is both profitable and fully able to respond to the changing needs of our customers. The FSS has produced a business case which will deliver significant savings in the future years. The figure is commercially sensitive and dependent upon the success of the FSS in competing for and retaining customers' business.

Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes at the border to handle migrants denied entry to the UK. [296211]

Mr. Woolas: When an individual is refused entry to the United Kingdom, they are liable to be removed by the first available service to *(a)* the country from which they travelled, or *(b)* a country where they are admissible. After completion of satisfactory risk assessments, the individual will either be detained or granted conditional temporary admission until removal can be effected.

Individuals who are refused entry at our juxtaposed controls in northern France and Belgium are served with written notices explaining the reasons why they have been denied entry to the UK. Responsibility for the individual is then passed to the relevant host authority.

Immigration Controls

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his French counterpart and *(b)* his other EU counterparts on UK border security and migration policy. [293797]

Mr. Woolas: The UK, French and other EU Governments maintain regular contact in the area of UK border security and migration. On 22-24 June 2009 the Home Secretary made introductory calls to his counterparts in Spain, Germany and Sweden. He discussed amongst other issues the UK position on the Stockholm Programme which encompasses border security and migration policy.

On 21 September the Home Secretary attended the Justice and Home Affairs Council in Brussels, along with all of his European counterparts. European Ministers discussed a range of issues including European asylum policy and how to strengthen the management of migration flows in the Mediterranean. The Home Secretary had bilateral discussions with some of his counterparts in the margins of the Council, including with the French Minister for Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Solidarity-based Development, Eric Besson. I met with Eric Besson, the French Minister for Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Solidarity-based Development at the UK-France summit in Evian on 6 July 2009. where we both committed to further action to combat illegal immigration, including through strengthening security at the shared border and taking resolute action to reduce the pull factors for illegal immigrants and criminal networks.

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applications from *(a)* Chinese, *(b)* Indian, *(c)* Pakistani, *(d)* Bangladeshi and *(e)* US nationals for a student visa were rejected between July and September 2009. [293961]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* The percentage of applications from *(a)* Chinese, *(b)* Indian, *(c)* Pakistani, *(d)* Bangladeshi and *(e)* US nationals for a student visa that were refused between July and September 2009 is shown in the following table.

PBS Tier 4 - Student visa applications 1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009

Nationality	*Refusal rate (percentage)*
Bangladesh	10
China	7
India	17
Pakistan	30
United States	7

Note:
This data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional
Source:
Central Reference System

Police Cautions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offenders have received a police caution in each year since 1997; [296363]

(2) how many offenders received *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more police cautions between 1997 and 2009; [296369]

(3) how many offenders received *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more police cautions in each year since 1997. [296370]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is shown in the following tables. Data prior to 2000 have not been included.

Table 1 shows the number of people cautioned on at least one occasion in each calendar year from 2000, and provides a breakdown of this total by the number of times each person was cautioned in the year.

Table 1: Numbers of people cautioned by calendar year

		Number of people cautioned on:			
	Total number of people cautioned at least once in year	*Only one occasion in year*	*Two occasions in year*	*Three occasions in year*	*Four or more occasions in year*
2000	238,746	210,490	21,842	3,934	2,480
2001	237,337	210,012	21,140	3,891	2,294
2002	239,325	213,191	20,733	3,444	1,957
2003	253,884	226,407	21,904	3,610	1,963
2004	260,797	230,100	24,251	4,141	2,305
2005	302,845	265,660	29,335	5,149	2,701
2006	346,486	301,443	35,369	6,252	3,422
2007	360,749	312,192	38,280	6,824	3,453
2008	329,199	285,687	34,785	5,714	3,013

Table 2 shows the number of people that have been cautioned on at least one occasion at any time between 2000 and 2008, and the breakdown of this total by the number of times each person has been cautioned over this time period.

Table 2: Numbers of people cautioned between 2000-08

Caution occasions	*Number of people with cautions between 2000-08*
One	1,639,891
Two	397,458
Three	104,915
Four or more	51,874
Total	2,194,138

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have received police cautions for the offences of *(a)* taking, permitting to be taken, or making distributing or publishing indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children and *(b)* possessing an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child in each of the last five years. [296654]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The number of persons issued with a caution for offences of taking, permitting to be taken, or making, distributing or publishing indecent photographs of children and possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child in England and Wales, from 2003-07 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] [2] for offences of taking, or possession of, an indecent photograph of a child, England and Wales, 2003-07[3]

Offence description	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Take, permit to be taken, or to make, distribute or publish indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children[4]	239	201	195	168	185
Possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child[5]	205	162	151	147	142

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Offences under the Protection of Children Act 1978, section 1 and section 6 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, section 84 and Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.41(1).

[5] Offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec.160 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Police: Complaints

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of excessive use of force by police there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each of the last five years. [296399]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not collect this information.

The Police Reform Act 2002 places a duty on all police forces to record all complaints made by members of the public about the conduct of those serving with the police. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the collation and publication of complaints statistics for England and Wales. It has done so since it was established in 2004.

Excessive force is not a category used in the collation and publication of the IPCC's statistics. It is a matter for each force to retain such information.

Police: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what allowances are paid to chief constables; what criteria apply to the payment of such allowances; how much was paid to the Chief Constable of Essex Police in allowances in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [296614]

Mr. Hanson: The nationally determined chief police officer pay and allowances are agreed by the Police Negotiating Board and, for England and Wales, given effect through the Police Regulations 2003 and Home Secretary Determinations made under those regulations. I have placed in the Library of the House a consolidated set of the Determinations. It is for police authorities to determine individual chief officer allowances in accordance with legislative requirements and their duty to ensure the maintenance of an efficient and effective force for their area. Information on chief officer allowances determined by police authorities is not held centrally.

Police: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made towards delivering the Policing Pledge in Tamworth. [296115]

Mr. Hanson: It is for individual police forces and authorities to ensure delivery of the Policing Pledge in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the single top-down target we have set them to improve public confidence that crime and antisocial behaviour are being tackled locally, and in the light of inspection work by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

In October, HMIC published a report on the progress of all forces in delivering the pledge. Although information is not available specifically for Tamworth, the report graded Staffordshire police as 'fair'. HMIC identified that the force regularly keep the public informed about action taken to address local concerns and that they were dealing well with non-emergency calls. It also identified that more could be done to ensure a quicker response to public dissatisfaction and calls to neighbourhood teams. We now look to all forces and police authorities to respond quickly to HMIC's findings and deliver the pledge consistently for their community.

Police: Termination of Employment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers (i) were dismissed and (ii) resigned in each local authority area in each year since 2002. [296353]

Mr. Hanson: Police personnel data are not collected centrally at local authority area level. The available force-level data have been collected since 2002-03 and are given in the following tables.

Police Officer and PCSO dismissals and resignations by police force (full-time equivalent)[1], 2002-03 to 2008-09[2]

Full-time equivalent

	2002-03[3]				*2003-04*			
	Police Officer		*PCSO*		*Police Officer*		*PCSO*	
Force name	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*
Avon and Somerset	11	1	n/a	n/a	52	3	0	0
Bedfordshire	22	2	0	0	39	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	22	4	0	0	23	2	3	0
Cheshire	10	2	0	0	21	0	3	0
Cleveland	3	5	0	0	23	3	1	0
Cumbria	9	2	0	0	11	1	0	0
Derbyshire	14	4	0	0	21	3	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	22	7	0	1	13	3	3	1
Dorset	11	2	0	0	18	1	0	0
Durham	4	0	1	0	19	1	2	0
Essex	12	n/a	n/a	n/a	36	3	4	0
Gloucestershire	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	2	3	0
Greater Manchester	43	3	1	1	126	11	20	5
Hampshire	35	3	0	0	68	6	0	0
Hertfordshire	28	3	0	0	56	4	1	0
Humberside	20	1	0	0	29	3	n/a	n/a
Kent	37	0	0	0	72	1	1	0
Lancashire	17	6	0	0	28	5	6	0
Leicestershire	20	0	0	0	35	1	7	2
Lincolnshire	10	0	1	0	16	1	8	1
London, City of	19	1	0	0	12	0	0	0
Merseyside	22	3	0	0	34	7	10	0
Metropolitan Police	453	19	11	1	552	22	110	5
Norfolk	9	1	0	0	10	1	2	1
Northamptonshire	9	0	1	0	26	2	1	0
Northumbria	35	3	0	0	29	6	0	0
North Yorkshire	11	0	0	0	15	3	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire	12	1	0	0	13	1	0	0
South Yorkshire	36	3	0	0	46	1	3	0
Staffordshire	7	1	0	0	27	6	1	0
Suffolk	14	1	0	0	28	2	0	0
Surrey	27	0	0	0	34	7	6	1
Sussex	35	0	0	0	124	6	8	2
Thames Valley	64	4	0	0	71	1	1	0
Warwickshire	14	1	0	0	19	2	4	0
West Mercia	18	0	0	0	27	4	4	1
West Midlands	89	11	0	0	107	4	1	0
West Yorkshire	34	6	0	0	46	6	18	1
Wiltshire	18	3	0	0	18	0	1	0
Dyfed-Powys	5	1	0	0	9	1	n/a	n/a
Gwent	1	1	0	0	15	0	9	1
North Wales	7	0	0	0	22	0	0	0
South Wales	20	3	0	0	21	4	4	0
Total	1,317	108	15	3	2,026	140	246	21

Full-time equivalent

	2004-05				*2005-06*			
	Police Officer		*PCSO*		*Police Officer*		*PCSO*	
Force name	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*
Avon and Somerset	40	5	0	0	77	4	21	0
Bedfordshire	35	4	2	0	25	0	4	0
Cambridgeshire	34	4	15	1	26	2	16	0
Cheshire	26	2	2	0	37	3	6	0
Cleveland	20	4	7	0	24	3	5	0
Cumbria	15	0	0	0	11	2	4	1

Full-time equivalent

	2004-05				2005-06			
	Police Officer		PCSO		Police Officer		PCSO	
Force name	Voluntary resignations	Dismissals	Voluntary resignations	Dismissals	Voluntary resignations	Dismissals	Voluntary resignations	Dismissals
Derbyshire	20	0	0	0	20	3	1	0
Devon and Cornwall	31	3	2	0	44	0	6	0
Dorset	20	3	4	1	22	3	4	1
Durham	19	1	0	0	15	1	6	0
Essex	66	2	14	0	79	9	32	0
Gloucestershire	16	0	8	0	19	2	9	2
Greater Manchester	128	5	13	0	186	21	21	0
Hampshire	47	5	0	0	64	6	6	0
Hertfordshire	54	2	11	0	55	2	21	1
Humberside	36	0	1	0	31	4	0	0
Kent	60	0	9	1	66	3	16	1
Lancashire	42	2	14	0	26	3	37	0
Leicestershire	36	1	3	0	45	3	11	0
Lincolnshire	19	0	9	0	20	0	11	0
London, City of	11	1	0	0	11	0	2	1
Merseyside	38	9	11	0	83	10	20	1
Metropolitan Police	422	32	234	14	337	28	378	23
Norfolk	13	2	3	0	22	1	7	1
Northamptonshire	30	0	1	0	24	1	2	0
Northumbria	34	2	3	0	38	2	17	1
North Yorkshire	18	0	14	0	17	2	8	0
Nottinghamshire	25	1	9	1	14	1	4	0
South Yorkshire	57	0	5	0	40	4	5	0
Staffordshire	43	3	2	0	24	2	9	1
Suffolk	26	3	1	0	14	4	5	0
Surrey	32	2	16	1	37	5	6	1
Sussex	113	2	21	6	82	5	34	1
Thames Valley	100	1	0	0	131	8	21	2
Warwickshire	15	2	5	0	12	2	12	0
West Mercia	21	2	2	0	19	4	4	0
West Midlands	119	18	4	0	137	8	26	2
West Yorkshire	72	2	55	1	89	5	68	0
Wiltshire	24	1	6	0	26	0	12	0
Dyfed-Powys	17	1	0	0	12	3	5	0
Gwent	17	2	2	1	20	3	11	1
North Wales	17	1	0	0	27	3	2	0
South Wales	18	3	11	0	29	3	11	2
Total	2,042	133	516	27	2,134	178	904	43

Full-time equivalent

	2006-07				2007-08			
	Police Officer		PCSO		Police Officer		PCSO	
Force name	Voluntary resignations	Dismissals	Voluntary resignations	Dismissals	Voluntary resignations	Dismissals	Voluntary resignations	Dismissals
Avon and Somerset	35	1	18	0	48	1	30	5
Bedfordshire	23	5	8	0	31	1	27	0
Cambridgeshire	28	1	13	0	12	4	24	1
Cheshire	24	4	15	0	17	3	13	5
Cleveland	25	0	12	0	23	2	13	0
Cumbria	17	0	5	0	11	1	22	0
Derbyshire	41	5	7	0	39	4	33	3
Devon and Cornwall	34	4	9	1	38	2	22	2
Dorset	19	3	10	1	26	2	2	0
Durham	16	0	9	0	19	1	27	2
Essex	81	5	38	2	73	1	41	0
Gloucestershire	20	2	9	0	18	0	13	1

Full-time equivalent

	2006-07				*2007-08*			
	Police Officer		*PCSO*		*Police Officer*		*PCSO*	
Force name	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*
Greater Manchester	159	6	36	4	136	8	99	5
Hampshire	49	1	13	0	46	5	32	0
Hertfordshire	63	2	13	0	50	4	26	1
Humberside	34	2	11	1	40	2	22	1
Kent	49	1	15	0	57	4	42	2
Lancashire	32	6	19	1	34	8	71	3
Leicestershire	27	2	19	1	53	7	31	1
Lincolnshire	16	3	12	0	16	0	16	0
London, City of	11	1	7	1	16	2	6	1
Merseyside	61	1	24	2	41	13	50	2
Metropolitan Police	531	31	309	15	360	23	655	30
Norfolk	24	1	11	1	16	1	18	2
Northamptonshire	19	3	11	0	25	2	21	2
Northumbria	48	8	19	4	46	9	43	3
North Yorkshire	32	0	11	1	31	2	5	0
Nottinghamshire	28	2	10	2	23	2	27	2
South Yorkshire	38	0	12	0	40	0	15	2
Staffordshire	22	6	11	2	24	8	24	1
Suffolk	12	2	8	0	23	2	13	2
Surrey	46	10	43	0	47	5	23	4
Sussex	76	5	38	2	76	1	50	3
Thames Valley	86	5	23	2	78	4	71	0
Warwickshire	18	0	7	0	20	1	12	0
West Mercia	38	1	21	0	32	0	39	0
West Midlands	105	26	45	1	91	16	93	4
West Yorkshire	65	3	51	1	84	8	110	7
Wiltshire	16	1	8	0	28	0	13	3
Dyfed-Powys	8	0	4	0	12	3	11	0
Gwent	16	1	16	1	24	6	14	3
North Wales	22	1	10	1	16	0	10	0
South Wales	39	1	18	1	80	2	36	1
Total	2,150	161	1,007	48	2,020	170	1,962	104

Full-time equivalent

	2008-09			
	Police Officer		*PCSO*	
Force name	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*
Avon and Somerset	28	3	32	0
Bedfordshire	25	3	21	0
Cambridgeshire	25	0	35	1
Cheshire	17	2	31	1
Cleveland	19	3	7	0
Cumbria	21	1	30	0
Derbyshire	34	4	18	2
Devon and Cornwall	37	2	28	6
Dorset	14	2	16	2
Durham	16	2	37	5
Essex	53	4	36	0
Gloucestershire	12	1	18	0
Greater Manchester	97	7	99	3
Hampshire	45	4	63	1
Hertfordshire	34	5	30	0
Humberside	36	2	24	0
Kent	57	2	75	4
Lancashire	24	6	86	3
Leicestershire	35	2	36	3
Lincolnshire	15	0	28	2
London, City of	5	0	20	0
Merseyside	47	10	93	0

Full-time equivalent

	2008-09			
	Police Officer		*PCSO*	
Force name	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*	*Voluntary resignations*	*Dismissals*
Metropolitan Police	383	19	512	38
Norfolk	31	5	74	1
Northamptonshire	19	4	22	0
Northumbria	48	4	58	1
North Yorkshire	28	2	11	1
Nottinghamshire	25	1	62	1
South Yorkshire[3]	30	1	30	0
Staffordshire	22	1	36	0
Suffolk	32	2	13	0
Surrey	52	4	42	2
Sussex	60	2	58	2
Thames Valley	51	8	96	1
Warwickshire	9	1	18	0
West Mercia	28	1	39	0
West Midlands	109	8	106	1
West Yorkshire	73	6	55	4
Wiltshire	29	0	23	0
Dyfed-Powys	9	3	5	0
Gwent	22	2	20	0
North Wales	14	0	44	1
South Wales	88	2	27	0
Total	1,854	141	2,212	86

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Full-Time Equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. Data have not previously been previously published in this format therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Comparable data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[3] Excludes quarters 1, 2 and 3, as data are not available.

Radicalism

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policy his Department has adopted to prevent *(a)* violent extremism, *(b)* extremism claimed to be perpetrated in the name of Islam, *(c)* extremism perpetrated in the name of neo-nazi and fascist causes and *(d)* extremism claimed by others; and if he will make a statement. [293391]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* The Government, the police and other agencies assess the threat from various forms of extremism on a regular basis. The Government take all threats to the security of our communities very seriously and are undertaking a wide variety of programmes to address and reduce the threat.

Local threat assessments are not published publicly but are produced so that local partners including local authorities and police forces are able to make decisions and allocate resources according to local situations.

The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) assess the threat to the UK from international terrorism and that is currently assessed to be at substantial, meaning that the threat of a terrorist attack remains a strong possibility and may occur without warning.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted of offences under section 53 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; and how many of those convicted received the maximum sentence. [296657]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The encryption provisions of the 2000 Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) came into force on 1 October 2007. Up to the end of 2007 (latest available) there have been no persons reported to the Ministry of Justice as being cautioned, prosecuted or convicted under section 53 of the Act in England and Wales. Some information is available in the Chief Surveillance Commissioner's report for 2008-09 which shows there were two s53 convictions for failing to disclose the key to protected information.

The Government are satisfied that offences set in RIPA are appropriate and that the legislation is being used effectively.

Sexual Offences: Police Cautions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have received cautions for offences under section *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each police force area in each of the last five years. [296656]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Information showing the number of offenders cautioned for offences under section 1 and 5 of the 2003 Sexual Offences Act in England and Wales, broken down by Police Force Area, from 1 May 2004 (the date the 2003 Sexual offences Act came into force) to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for offences under Sections 1 and 5 of the 2003 Sexual Offences Act, England and Wales, broken down by force[2], 2004[3] to 2007[4,5]

Force	*2004[3]*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Section 1				
Cambridgeshire	2	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	1
Essex	3	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	1	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	1	1	3
Hertfordshire	—	—	1	—
Humberside	—	—	1	—
Lancashire	1	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	1	1	—	—
Metropolitan Police	4	—	1	—
Norfolk	1	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	1	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	1
Nottinghamshire	2	—	1	2
South Yorkshire	1	—	1	—
Staffordshire	—	—	1	1
Suffolk	2	1	—	—
Surrey	2	1	—	—
Sussex	—	—	2	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	1
West Mercia	—	—	1	—
West Yorkshire	—	1	—	—
England and Wales	20	6	10	9
Section 5				
Bedfordshire	—	—	1	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	3
Cleveland	—	—	1	—
Gloucestershire	—	3	1	—
Greater Manchester	2	1	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	1	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	2	—
Humberside	—	1	1	—
Kent	—	—	—	4
Lincolnshire	2	2	—	2
Merseyside	—	—	—	1
Metropolitan Police	2	4	—	1
Northumbria	—	—	—	1
Nottinghamshire	—	—	3	2
South Yorkshire	—	—	1	5
Staffordshire	—	—	—	2
Suffolk	—	1	—	1
Surrey	3	—	—	—
Thames Valley	1	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	1	2
West Midlands	1	4	—	1
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	1	—
Gwent	—	—	1	—
England and Wales	11	16	14	25

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] A force not listed in the table means nil data.

[3] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004—data in the table start from that date.

[4] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Vetting

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check undertaken *(a)* by Lancashire constabulary and *(b)* nationwide in the latest period for which figures are available. [296371]

Meg Hillier: Data concerning the average time taken by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) to complete a Disclosure by police force area and the average length of time for the completion of CRB clearance once police have been asked to provide this information are not collated by the Bureau.

The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 95 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within 28 days. Average figures do not give an accurate indication of performance, since any forces' performance can be affected by a number of factors; the volume of cases sent to a force to process in any given month, the number of staff available to process the checks and the IT resources on hand to forces. With these variables, performance can fluctuate within individual forces from one month to the next.

CABINET OFFICE

Census: Sanctions

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what procedure governs the imposition of sanctions on respondents who fill in their census return incorrectly. [297472]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what procedure governs the imposition of sanctions on respondents who fill in their census return incorrectly. (297472)

During the 2011 Census blank or incomplete responses will be identified during the data capture operation and residents will be contacted by census staff while the field operation is still ongoing to obtain the required information.

In a case where a questionnaire is returned, but has been incorrectly completed there are a number of possible outcomes. Where responses are missing in an otherwise completed return, or where there are incorrect answers that are inconsistent with other responses, then edit and imputation processes will be applied at the data processing stage and generally residents will not be recontacted

If a questionnaire has inappropriate comments or obscene remarks written in place of answers or has been left intentionally blank, it would be treated under a non-compliance procedure. Under this procedure census staff revisit addresses and, where appropriate, offer help with completing the form so that a return can be made as prescribed in the Census (England and Wales) Order 2009, the Draft of which was laid before parliament on Wednesday 21 October 2009.

The penalty for failure to make a census return is specified in Section 8 (1) of the Census Act 1920 which prescribes a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale. The standard scale is that set out in the Criminal Justice Act and the maximum fine is currently £1,000. Prosecutions for refusing to complete a census return are conducted in a Magistrates Court and the award of costs against the defendant is at the discretion of the Magistrate.

The Office for National Statistics would prosecute only those who persistently refuse to make a return, and not in cases where genuine mistakes have been made, or where people are incapable of completing a return for whatever reason.

Census: Postal Services.

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contingency plans there are to ensure delivery of census forms in the event of disruption of postal services. [297473]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what contingency plans there are to ensure delivery of census forms in the event of disruption of postal services. (297473)

The Office for National Statistics has contracted the delivery and post back of census questionnaires to Royal Mail. This requires Royal Mail to develop contingency plans to cope with potential disruption to postal services during the 2011 Census. These plans are part of ONS's contractual arrangements with Royal Mail and are confidential.

There has been the opportunity to test the Royal Mail contingency plans during the census rehearsal which is currently taking place in areas of Lancaster, Newham and Isle of Anglesey. Our experience to date has shown no impact from the recent industrial action on the delivery of questionnaires: there have been some minor delays in the return of completed questionnaires though Royal Mail has assuranced us that there is no current back log.

ONS will work with Royal Mail to develop further contingency plans for 2011, building on experience during the rehearsal.

Government Departments: Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will amend the list of hospitality received by board members of Government Departments from 1 January to 31 December 2007 to include hospitality provided by the Chairman of the Audit Commission to the *(a)* Director General of the Department for Communities and Local Government on 18 August 2007, *(b)* Director General of the Financial and Commercial Group at the Home Department on 11 May 2007 and *(c)* Permanent Secretary to the Department Communities and Local Government on 8 October 2007. [297137]

Tessa Jowell: Guidance to Departments on the recording of hospitality is set out in the Government's response to the Public Administration Select Committee's Report "Lobbying: Access and Influence in Whitehall" which can be accessed at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmpubadm/1045/1045.pdf

Jobseeker's Allowance

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many under 25 year olds in Teignbridge constituency claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [297658]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many under 25 year olds in Teignbridge constituency claimed jobseeker's allowance in 1997, 2007, 2008 and 2009. (297658)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of persons under 25 years old, resident in the Teignbridge constituency, who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in September 2009, the latest period available, and the same month in 2008 ,2007 and 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Manpower: Cabinet Office

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 427W, on departmental manpower, whether the Central Office of Information's post of Head of Public Engagement is a new post; whether the post is part of the Government Communications Network; and what the *(a)* job specification and *(b)* salary range associated with the post is. [290124]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated October 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question (290124).

(a) This is a new post.

(b) The post does form part of the Government Communications Network.

(c) The job specification and salary range are contained in the attached document.

A copy of the Job Specification was posted on our website as part of the recruitment process, and has now been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Relations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public relations companies were awarded the contracts arising from the Central Office of Information Framework Agreement with contract reference 2007/S 156-194886; and what the total value was of the Framework Agreement. [294963]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated October 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [294963] asking which public relations companies were awarded contracts arising from the COI Framework Agreement with the contract reference 2007/S 156-194886; and what the total value of the Framework Agreement.

The Framework Agreement relates to the Marketing Aimed at Culturally Diverse Audiences Framework which commenced in 2007.

The estimated value of the Framework is between £7 million and £12 million, however the total value of the framework will not be known until its expiry in 2012.

The following agencies have subsequently been awarded contracts from it:

Mediareach

Media Moguls

Livity

Linstock Communications

Here & Now

Renewables Advisory Board

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bath of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 710W, on the Renewables Advisory Board, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* subject matter is of each public information film by the Central Office of Information since 2005; and which production company produced each such film. [290131]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated October 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on Public Information Films (290131).

A list of all public Information films, together with subject matter and Production Company since 2005 has been placed in the Library.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Guyana: Rain Forests

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to Guyana for rainforest preservation in each of the last three years; what estimate he has made of the acreage of rainforest protected as a result of such funding; and what agreements he has reached with the Government of Guyana on such funding in the next five years. [297640]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed to spend approximately £130,000 in the current financial year ending 31 March 2010 to support the implementation of a low carbon growth and rainforest protection strategy in Guyana. In 2008-09, we provided £313,000 towards the development of the prospectus and implementation plan for this strategy. The strategy aims to protect Guyana's 15 million hectares of rainforest. No funds were provided to Guyana for rainforest protection in either of the two previous years. No agreements have yet been reached on funding for rainforest protection in the next five years.

Guyana is also a participant in the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (to which the UK has contributed £15 million) and recently submitted its Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Readiness Plan. DFID officials regularly discuss forest protection with their Guyanese counterparts.

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the role of the International Organisation for Migration in the distribution of humanitarian aid in Sri Lanka. [297464]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is kept regularly informed of the Department for International Development's (DFID) funding allocations and the work of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Sri Lanka.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

I Will Write Replies

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to the written ministerial statement of 21 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 35WS, on I Will Write replies, whether the arrangements for publication in *Hansard* of I Will Write letters remain in force; and whether they apply to letters written by chief executives of Government agencies and non-departmental public bodies providing information in response to parliamentary questions. [297667]

Barbara Keeley: On those occasions where an I Will Write answer is necessary, a copy of the subsequent substantive response will be sent to *Hansard*, to be printed with the written answers in the next edition.

The guidance on letters written by chief executives of Government agencies and non-departmental public bodies, in response to parliamentary questions, is outlined in the recently published 'Guide to Parliamentary Work:'

'Letters written by chief executives of Government agencies and non-departmental public bodies, in response to parliamentary questions, should be sent to the *Official Report* for printing, unless it contains personal or confidential information. If the letter is longer than the *Official Report* would normally publish notification will be printed that the response is available in the Library of the House.'

The hon. Gentleman can view the full 'Guide to Parliamentary Work' through the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many biomass plants there are in the UK. [296355]

Joan Ruddock: Records of biomass power plants accredited under the Renewables Obligation are kept by Ofgem on their searchable Renewables and CHP Register at:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0

The total number of power plants in all biomass categories recorded as of 30 October 2009 is 623, of which 400 record their biomass feedstock as landfill gas. The remaining 223 include anaerobic digestion, energy from waste, sewage gas, co-firing and CHP as well as plant using virgin biomass. Records are not kept centrally of the number of biomass heat only plants. However, with the planned introduction of the RHI in 2011, such information may become available, as part of the administration of the scheme.

Biofuels: Treaties

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what biofuel partnership agreements there are between the Government and the Government of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Mozambique and *(c)* South Africa; how much funding the Government have committed under each such agreement; what assessment he has made of the likely benefits to the UK of such agreements; and if he will make a statement. [297665]

Mr. Kidney: The Brazil-UK-Southern Africa Biofuels Taskforce is a partnership agreed between the Governments of Brazil and the UK and the Southern African Development Community. The aim of the partnership is to support sustainable biofuel production in Southern Africa and the taskforce is part of the UK's agenda for promoting low carbon growth internationally. To date, the UK Government have committed approximately £10,000 to pay for scoping work.

Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the balance of the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy account was at 1 October 2009; and what representations he has received from the Scottish Executive on the drawdown and utilisation of the fund for the promotion of energy use from renewable resources. [295332]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The Scottish Executive have made representations to DECC regarding the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy account. The balance of the account was £170 million on 1 October.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* people and *(b)* households were in fuel poverty in each region in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [297593]

Mr. Kidney: Fuel poverty is measured at household level rather than at individual level.

The Department's latest estimates for fuel poverty are for 2007, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx

The following table provides the number of households in fuel poverty for each English region:

Number of house holds in fuel poverty

Thousand

Government Office Region	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	95	103	126	179	206
East Midlands	112	101	145	236	272
East of England	115	141	155	224	253
London	108	119	120	254	309
North West	178	190	268	415	472
South East	149	133	169	291	333
South West	139	134	181	236	259
West Midlands	146	153	197	304	383
Yorkshire and The Humber	180	163	169	273	333
Total	1,222	1,236	1,529	2,412	2,819

Natural Gas: Storage

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 483W, on "Natural Gas: Storage", what the minimum amount of gas in storage over the winter is required under the safety monitor system. [294494]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* In the Winter Outlook Report 2009-10 National Grid's preliminary assessment of storage requirements for Safety Monitors this winter is 100 million cubic metres (mcm) of storage space and 60 mcm/d of storage deliverability. National Grid may revise this assessment during the course of the winter if appropriate.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to receive the annual report from the Director of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security; and what consideration was given to publishing the report in August 2009. [295781]

Mr. Kidney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received a copy of the report.

The report was published and deposited in Parliament on 8 October. There is not a set timetable for publication and the report was published as soon as was practical.

Planning Act 2008

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which draft national policy statements under the Planning Act 2008 for which his Department is responsible he expects to publish before March 2010. [296504]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The Department intends to publish a suite of six energy national policy statements for consultation during autumn 2009.

This will include an overarching national policy statement for energy and five technology-specific national policy statements on: fossil fuel electricity generation; renewable energy generation; gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines; electricity networks and nuclear power generation.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which companies based in *(a)* France, *(b)* Sweden, *(c)* the United States and *(d)* the UK have made applications under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 for authorisation to dispose of low level nuclear waste in the UK; on what date each application was made; and what the status of each such application is. [295664]

Mr. Kidney: Applications made under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 for authorisation to dispose of low level nuclear waste in the UK are listed in the following table by company and site. This list represents the most recent applications by these companies.

Application date	*Company and premises*	*Status*
November 2003	British Energy, Torness Power Station, (Now British Energy Generation Ltd, part of EDF Energy)	[1]—
November 2003	British Energy, Hunterston B Power Station, (Now British Energy Generation Ltd, part of EDF Energy)	[1]—
October 2006	Babcock Engineering Services, Rosyth Dockyard	[1]—
November 2007 and June 2009	Magnox North Ltd, Chapelcross Works	[2]—
April 2008	Dounreay Site Restoration Limited, Dounreay	[2]—
May 2009	Waste Recycling Ltd, Lillyhall Landfill Site Cumbria	[2]—
July 2009	Augean South Ltd, East Northants Resource Management facility, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire	[2]—

[1] Determined and granted.
[2] Being determined.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of those who have qualified for support under the Warm Front scheme are in receipt of each type of non-taxable social security benefit. [297086]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The following table details the proportion of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme who are in receipt of each type of qualifying benefit (all qualifying benefits are non-taxable).

Benefit type	*Percentage per total households assisted*
Attendance allowance	11.62
Child benefit	2.24
Child tax credit	20.26
Constant attendance allowance	0.09
Council tax benefit	10.08
Disability living allowance	27.79
Disability premium	1.87
Disabled persons tax credit	0.01
Housing benefit	1.19
Income based employment and support allowance	0.05
Income based job seekers allowance	0.85
Income support	5.95
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	0.09
Lone parent family	0.39
Maternity certificate (Mat B1)	0.09
Mobility supplement	0.23
Pension credit	24.08
State pension as main source of income	0.02
War disablement pension	0.18
Working families tax credit	0.08
Working tax credit	2.28

Note:
Dates: June 2005 to 31 August 2009

Some households will be in receipt of more than one benefit, such households have been counted against each individual benefit.

TREASURY

EU Budget

7. **Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what he expects the net UK contribution to the EU budget to be in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2013. [297054]

Ian Pearson: The Government's latest forecast of UK net contributions to the European Community budget for 2009-10 is £4.1 billion, which is 0.6 per cent. of total managed expenditure. In line with all other public expenditure estimates, the Treasury does not currently publish forecasts beyond 2010-11.

Unemployment

18. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the level of unemployment. [297067]

Mr. Byrne: In this current downturn unemployment remains below levels at a similar stage compared to the early 1990s. Our substantial investment in getting people back to work is helping ensure 3 million people have left the claimant count since the end of 2008.

Capital Projects

20. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of bringing forward expenditure on capital projects. [297069]

Mr. Byrne: The Chancellor forecast in this year's Budget that the country will return to growth at the turn of the year as a result of measures taken by this Government including the fiscal stimulus package. These additional investments are already supporting a number of industries and employing people across the country. An update on the economic position will be given in the pre-Budget report.

Small Businesses

21. **Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent fiscal measures his Department has taken to support small businesses during the recession. [297070]

Ian Pearson: Support for small businesses has included extending loss relief, deferring the increase in corporation tax for small companies and helping businesses spread tax payments through the Business Payment Support Service. This service has now made over 220,000 agreements with business, worth almost £4 billion of tax.

In addition, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, by 28 October, had offered over 6,100 businesses loans totalling approximately £620 million.

National Debt

22. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK's national debt is. [297071]

Ian Pearson: Public sector net debt at the end of the 2008-09 financial year stood at 43.2 per cent. of GDP, excluding financial sector interventions.

Equitable Life

23. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for the payment of compensation to Equitable Life policyholders; and if he will make a statement. [297072]

Mr. Byrne: As I announced in the House on 21 October 2009, the Government have asked Sir John Chadwick to submit his final report by spring 2010. We will consider his advice as quickly as possible and announce a payment scheme that is practical to deliver and fair to both policyholders and taxpayers.

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies were participating in the childcare voucher scheme at the latest date for which figures are available. [296891]

Mr. Timms: The most recent published research, commissioned by HM Revenue and Customs in 2006, by the National Centre for Social Research estimated that there were 9,600 organisations providing child care vouchers in late 2005. The report is available at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm.

Business Payment Support Service

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on small businesses of the operation of the business payment support service. [297068]

Mr. Timms: Since its introduction on 24 November 2008 the Business Payment Support Service has agreed over 220,300 time to pay arrangements with businesses to spread tax payments of about £3.9 billion. This has helped to support more than 150,000 businesses, the vast majority of whom are small and medium sized, that employ an estimated 600,000 people. Just over 90 per cent. by value of the payments due under time to pay arrangements are being paid on time.

While we have made no formal assessment of the effect on small businesses, businesses tell us that they have found the service very helpful by giving them the breathing space they need and by helping them pay their tax bills in a managed and structured way with the full help and support of HMRC.

Child Tax Credit: Expenditure

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to public funds of *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* child benefit for families with children aged 16 to 19 years in full-time education and training in 2008-09; what proportion of this expenditure were paid to families with gross incomes of over (i) £25,000, (ii) £40,000, (iii) £60,000 and (iv) £100,000 per year; and if he will make a statement. [297032]

Mr. Timms: No such estimates have been made.

Climate Change Levy

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what exemptions there are to the application of the climate change levy in respect of the burning of recovered fuel oil in industrial manufacturing processes. [297558]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Recovered fuel oil is a hydrocarbon oil within the meaning of the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 and as such is outside the scope of the climate change levy. Therefore, the burning of recovered fuel oil in any process, not just industrial manufacturing, will not be subject to the climate change levy.

Coinage: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce the number of counterfeit coins in circulation. [297177]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Royal Mint is working with banks, the Post Office, cash handling and sorting businesses, the police and the vending industry to remove counterfeit £1 coins from circulation before they reach the pockets of members of the public. Coin handling businesses, such as banks and the Post Office, handle over three billion £1 coins every year. They use high-speed, automated systems to process customer deposits and prepare coin for reissue. These automated systems are capable of detecting and withdrawing a significant number of counterfeit coins. All counterfeit coins detected from coin processing are sent to the Royal Mint for disposal.

The Royal Mint holds awareness seminars to educate the public and the coin handling industry on how to identify counterfeits, and has issued educational leaflets and posters.

The Royal Mint is also working with other validator and coin sorting manufactures to help improve the counterfeit detection rate.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of counterfeit *(a)* £1 and *(b)* £2 coins in circulation. [297178]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent survey conducted by the Royal Mint found that its sample contained a £1 coin counterfeit rate of 2.52 per cent. or approximately £37 million.

The Royal Mint does not currently undertake regular surveys for other denominations. It is widely believed (by the Royal Mint, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and industry partners) that there is not a significant counterfeit issue with any other denominations.

Some £2 counterfeit coins have been returned to the Mint but the quantities are minimal and they are of a poor quality.

Departmental Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rateable value of HM Treasury building was *(a)* in 2009-10, based on the 2005 Rating List and *(b)* on the draft 2010 rating List. [296991]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The rateable values of the Treasury Building are:

2005 Rating List: £7,300,000;
Draft 2010 Rating List £12,870,000.

Economic Growth

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the level of growth in the UK economy compared with those of other OECD economies; and if he will make a statement. [297059]

Mr. Byrne: All member economies of the OECD have been affected by the global recession. The OECD's Interim Assessment in September noted that there are signs of confidence returning across the world economy and to financial markets. However, complacency remains our biggest risk and the G20 Finance Ministers have agreed to continue delivering the necessary support measures until recovery is secured. The Chancellor will publish his latest assessment of conditions in the UK and world economies in the Pre-Budget Report later this autumn.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much alcohol duty has been collected since the increase in the level of duty implemented in April 2009; [297474]

(2) how much alcohol duty has been collected since the increase in the level of duty implemented in December 2008; [297475]

(3) how much is estimated to be collected in alcohol duty in the next 12 months. [297476]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Total alcohol duty received by the Exchequer is published on a monthly basis in the National Statistics Beer and Cider bulletin available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbeer

The forecast revenue for 2009-10 from alcohol duty is published in table C.6 of the 2009 Financial Statement and Budget Report. This can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_completereport_2520.pdf

HM Revenue and Customs do not publish part-year breakdowns of this forecast.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions officials of his Department have had with representatives of the public house industry on alcohol duty; and if he will make a statement. [297477]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Housing: Sales

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to Lord Oakeshott of Seagrove Bay of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 24WA, on stamp duty, what estimate has been made of the *(a)* number of house transactions and *(b)* average level of house prices for (i) first-time buyers and (ii) all buyers in each year from 2010-11 to 2013-14. [296996]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government do not publish a forecast of property transactions or a forecast of the average level of house-prices.

For the purposes of the public finance projections the Treasury uses an assumption for the level of the house prices in each year of the forecast horizon. This assumption is based on an average of independent external forecasts and audited by the National Audit Office. Details of the assumed level of house prices can be found in paragraphs B.76 and B.77 of the Budget Report (HC 407).

National Insurance Fund

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the National Insurance Fund had *(a)* received and *(b)* paid out on the most recent date for which figures are available. [297410]

Mr. Timms: Receipts into and payments out of the National Insurance Fund (NIF) are shown in the annual NIF accounts. The latest published accounts are for the year 2007-08, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/ni-fund-ac-gb-0708.pdf

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the Financial Services Authority did not investigate the financial activities of the Presbyterian Mutual Society prior to its entering administration in November 2008. [295807]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS) was registered by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1969. As such, it was exempt from regulation by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in respect of accepting deposits in the form of withdrawable share capital up to the statutory maximum of £20,000. Therefore, the FSA did not have cause to investigate the financial activities of the PMS prior to its entering administration in 2008. It has since been established that the PMS was conducting regulated activities which required FSA authorisation, but that it did so without having sought and obtained the necessary authorisation.

Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of records of *(a)* tax take and *(b)* public expenditure held at (i) local authority and (ii) regional level. [297269]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not publish a breakdown of total taxes by region and local authority and does not produce a breakdown of total public spending by local authority. However, it publishes a breakdown of total identifiable public spending by region in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa09_chapter9.pdf

The Treasury continuously looks to improve the quality of these data and data improvements in recent years are described in each annual publication of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the effect on the UK freight industry of changes in the taxation of aviation. [297058]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Government consulted on a per plane tax in early 2008, and before taking the decision to reform APD, the Chancellor took representations from a range of stakeholders, including other ministers, as per the usual process in tax development.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for meetings on his Department's consultation on the taxation of gaming machines his Department has received in the last 12 months; and how many such requests have resulted in a meeting with Ministers. [297571]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policy making process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to publish its response to its recent consultation on the taxation of gaming machines. [297572]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury's formal consultation on the taxation of gaming machines was launched on 16 July 2009 and concluded on 23 October 2009.

In line with the Government's code of practice on consultation, the responses will be analysed carefully and, in due course, feedback will be provided to participants.

Taxation: Ministers of Religion

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to HM Revenue and Customs tax manual advice EIM60007, ministers of religion: exemption of income: overview; what Freedom of Information Act 2000 exemptions apply to the text that has been withheld from publication. [296802]

Mr. Timms: The part of the guidance that has been withheld is for use by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff that require advice on this matter and contains a internal hyperlink that takes them to the person who can help. The withheld text states:

> "If a claim to benefit from the special rules is pressed but you are doubtful whether the claimant can be regarded as a minister, consult PAYE Technical."

The published guidance incorrectly states that this has been withheld on freedom of information grounds, rather than for internal use. HMRC will update this guidance to correct this error and place the withheld guidance, minus the hyperlink, into the public domain.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission a privacy impact assessment in respect of the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System. [294517]

Ian Pearson: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) provides guidance on the use of PIAs. The ICO envisages PIAs only being used where a project is of such a wide scope, or will use personal information of such a nature, that there would be genuine risks to the privacy of the individual. PIAs will usually be recommended where a change of the law would be required, new and intrusive technology is being used, or where private or sensitive information which was originally collected for a limited purpose is going to be re-used in a new and unexpected way.

I am advised that the Valuation Office Agency's geographical information system project does not pose a risk to the privacy of an individual.

Valuation Office: Training

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden, of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1514W, on Valuation Office: training, if he will place in the Library an electronic copy of the e-Learning Programmes in Module 5 on council tax. [296804]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1676-77W.

JUSTICE

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers convicted of driving in each police authority when under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the East of England in each year since 1999 had previous convictions for the same offence. [295947][1]

Claire Ward: The figures requested are shown in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs[1] in the East of England, 2000-08, with a previous conviction[2] for the same offence

Force	*Number of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs (East of England)*	*Number of these drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*	*Percentage of drivers with a previous conviction for the same offence*
2000			
Bedfordshire	601	101	16.8
Cambridgeshire	645	78	12.1
Essex	1,985	268	13.5
Hertfordshire	1,287	187	14.5
Norfolk	893	115	12.9
Suffolk	713	77	10.8
Grand Total	6,124	826	13.5
2001			
Bedfordshire	725	132	18.2
Cambridgeshire	675	107	15.9
Essex	2,008	312	15.5
Hertfordshire	1,417	216	15.2
Norfolk	897	129	14.4
Suffolk	785	112	14.3
Grand Total	6,507	1,008	15.5
2002			
Bedfordshire	769	165	21.5
Cambridgeshire	742	131	17.7
Essex	2,149	396	18.4
Hertfordshire	1,669	289	17.3
Norfolk	1,040	164	15.8
Suffolk	924	162	17.5
Grand Total	7,293	1,307	17.9
2003			
Bedfordshire	920	206	22.4
Cambridgeshire	833	176	21.1
Essex	2,280	478	21.0
Hertfordshire	1,655	327	19.8
Norfolk	1,081	212	19.6
Suffolk	1,030	185	18.0
Grand Total	7,799	1,584	20.3
2004			
Bedfordshire	938	191	20.4
Cambridgeshire	996	191	19.2
Essex	2,491	540	21.7
Hertfordshire	1,677	337	20.1
Norfolk	1,095	213	19.5
Suffolk	1,129	213	18.9
Grand Total	8,326	1,685	20.2
2005			
Bedfordshire	958	231	24.1
Cambridgeshire	1,192	246	20.6
Essex	2,356	560	23.8
Hertfordshire	1,717	387	22.5
Norfolk	1,140	244	21.4
Suffolk	987	219	22.2
Grand Total	8,350	1,887	22.6
2006			
Bedfordshire	1,037	241	23.2
Cambridgeshire	1,202	251	20.9
Essex	2,557	580	22.7
Hertfordshire	1,810	432	23.9
Norfolk	1,226	268	21.9
Suffolk	1,054	236	22.4
Grand Total	8,886	2,008	22.6
2007			
Bedfordshire	999	268	26.8
Cambridgeshire	1,186	265	22.3
Essex	2,472	572	23.1
Hertfordshire	1,862	421	22.6
Norfolk	1,222	299	24.5
Suffolk	993	199	20.0
Grand Total	8,734	2,024	23.2
2008			
Bedfordshire	877	233	26.6
Cambridgeshire	1,060	258	24.3
Essex	2,380	582	24.5
Hertfordshire	1,662	408	24.5
Norfolk	1,057	257	24.3
Suffolk	878	220	25.1
Grand Total	7,914	1,958	24.7

[1] The data include a range of offences under the Road Traffic Act. They can be found in sections 4(1), 5(1) (a), 7(6), 4(2), 5(1) (b), 6(4) and 7A as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Transport and Works Act 2002.

[2] Previous convictions are taken whether committed in East of England of elsewhere in England and Wales.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 102W, on departmental ministerial policy advisers, whether his special advisers signed waivers under the European Working Time Directive. [296032]

Mr. Straw: As I said in my previous answer to the hon. Gentleman, I am told that working for me is pure pleasure and stress free. It is very generous of the hon.

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[1] *[Official Report, 15 December 2009, Vol. 502, c. 1MC.]*

Gentleman to be so concerned for the welfare of my special advisers but I can inform him that given how much they enjoy working for me, they have not felt the need to sign waivers under the European Work Time Directive.

Offenders: Radicalism

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what intervention strategies his Department has developed to work with extremist offenders; [296507]

(2) what group work programmes his Department has accredited for use with convicted of offences related to terrorism *(a)* in prison and *(b)* on release in the community. [296508]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service is taking forward a wide-ranging programme of work to manage the risks of violent extremism and radicalisation among offenders. Part of this programme includes work to research, develop and evaluate potential intervention approaches.

Given the comparatively low number of terrorist offenders and the different motivations and behaviours they present in relation to their offending, it is difficult to identify with statistical significance and reliability factors associated with terrorist offending or reoffending. Therefore prison and probation staff need to use all available sources of evidence to assess the risk of serious harm or reconviction which terrorist offenders pose, and to identify appropriate intervention strategies.

For any intervention to be effective it will need to target the reasons why people offend which are different for each individual. There are currently no group work programmes specifically accredited for use with those convicted of offences related to terrorism. NOMS is working to understand the potential use of a wide range of intervention strategies which may help combat violent extremist offending and address the criminogenic factors of the individual violent extremist offender.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to introduce mandatory sentences for carrying a knife in a public place. [297026]

Mr. Straw: We have no plans to introduce mandatory sentences for carrying a knife in a public place. Mandatory sentences are only considered in truly exceptional circumstances. They can have serious drawbacks in some circumstances; because of their inflexibility they cannot easily respond to the circumstances of each offence so they can lead to unjust outcomes. But we have doubled the maximum sentence for possession of an offensive weapon in a public place from two to four years, which allows the courts to impose higher penalties in appropriate cases. We also welcomed last summer's new sentencing guidelines that provide for a starting point of three months custody for possession of a knife. Since then, sentencing has become more severe for this offence: more people are going to prison, and for longer.

We will shortly be making an announcement on the outcome of the review as to whether the starting point for adults convicted of murder using a knife currently 15 years under schedule 21 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 should be raised.

Prisoners Release: Terrorism

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what measures are in place to ensure adequate supervision of offenders convicted under anti-terrorism legislation who have subsequently been released under supervision; [296509]

(2) if he will use actuarial risk assessment methods to score the risk of reoffending of each person convicted under anti-terrorism legislation which has subsequently been released under supervision; [296510]

(3) what resources have been allocated to the Probation Service to supervise persons convicted under anti-terrorist legislation and subsequently released into the community under supervision; [296520]

(4) whether persons convicted under anti-terrorism legislation who are subsequently released into the community are allocated to tier 4 of his Department's Offender Management Model; and if he will make a statement. [296521]

Mr. Straw: All terrorist offenders fall to be managed in the community under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). MAPPA are a statutory set of arrangements, in which the police, prison and probation services are required to assess and manage the risk posed by offenders posing a high risk of harm. The MAPPA Guidance, issued by the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to Section 325(8) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, now includes a chapter on the management of terrorist offenders. Under that statutory guidance, chief officers of probation are required to ensure that cases involving terrorist offenders are allocated to an experienced offender manager.

In addition, offenders released having served a sentence of 12 months or more will be subject to statutory supervision on licence by the Probation Service, with six standard conditions. Additional licence conditions can be recommended by the offender manager to manage the risks posed by a particular case. Such additional licence conditions can include restrictions on internet use and contact with named individuals.

Where appropriate, terrorist offenders will be supervised on release in approved premises. Approved premises provide for enhanced level of supervision for high risk of harm offenders on release from custody into the community.

Probation staff are required to assess offenders' risk of reoffending and risk of harm, including offenders convicted of terrorist or terrorism-related offences, using OASys (Offender Assessment System). One element of OASys is an actuarial risk of reoffending score. The predictors of the likelihood of proven reoffending relate to groups within the overall offender population. Given the comparatively low numbers of terrorist offenders, it is difficult to identify with statistical significance and reliability factors associated with terrorist reoffending. Therefore, along with the OASys assessment, offender managers need to use all available sources of evidence to assess the risk of serious harm or reconviction which terrorist offenders pose. All high-risk offenders are allocated to Tier 4 of the Offender Management model.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) spends significant sums of money in delivering its responsibilities of protecting the public and reducing reoffending. In addition to the ongoing costs involved in managing terrorist offenders on licence, NOMS is taking forward a multi-disciplinary programme of work funded by the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT). This year OSCT has provided £5.5 million to the programme and this includes money specifically to support probation areas. In addition, those cases assessed as presenting the highest levels of imminent risk of harm, including those convicted of terrorism or terrorism related offences, can be registered as Critical Public Protection Cases (CPPC). CPPC registration enables the responsible authority, normally the probation service, to apply for additional funding to strengthen local risk management plans.

Prisoners Release: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of young adults released from young offender institutions went to *(a)* housing provided by family members, *(b)* housing provided by local authorities, *(c)* housing provided by charities, *(d)* an unknown address and *(e)* another destination in the latest period for which figures are available; [295912]

(2) what proportion of young adults released from young offender institutions were provided with accommodation by his Department in the last five years for which figures are available; [295915]

(3) how many young adults left *(a)* Reading Young Offender Institution and *(b)* all young offender institutions without (i) employment or (ii) accommodation in each of the last five years. [295916]

Maria Eagle: Data on the provider of housing for offenders on discharge from prison are not recorded in the form specified in the questions. However data are held on the type of accommodation to which offenders are discharged.

The following table shows the proportion of young adults discharged from prison establishments in 2007 and 2008 by type of accommodation. Data for previous years are not available.

		Percentage
	2007	*2008*
Permanent independent housing	83	84
Supported housing	2	2
Bail/Probation hostel	3	3
Transient/short-term accommodation	5	3
No fixed abode	4	3
No information	3	4

The following tables show the numbers of young adults discharged without any accommodation or employment from *(a)* Reading YOI and *(b)* all prison establishments in 2007 and 2008. Data for previous years are not available.

	Reading discharges	
	2007	*2008*
Without accommodation	Less than 10	Less than 10
Without employment	20	Less than 10
Total discharges	330	300

	All young adults	
	2007	*2008*
Without accommodation	610	520
Without employment	3,400	3,900
Total discharges	16,100	16,800

Numbers below 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers over 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people (1) on home detention curfew committed suicide between 1999 and 2009; [296767]

(2) released on an early release scheme committed suicide in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [296768]

Claire Ward: The home detention curfew, early removal and end of custody licence schemes enable eligible prisoners to be released from prison earlier than the half-way point of their sentence. NOMS does not collect data centrally on the numbers of self-inflicted deaths of such offenders after they have been released into the community.

The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison and to ensure that released at-risk prisoners receive comparable support to that received in prison. As part of the pre-release care planning process, offender managers must be informed of any risk of harm to self or others and the management strategies which have been tried in the prison setting. Prisons have local protocols in place which seek to ensure that at-risk prisoners are linked with community based organisations providing support after release.

Prisons: Greater Manchester

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the level of overcrowding in prisons serving the Greater Manchester area; and if he will make a statement. [296436]

Maria Eagle: For the financial year April to September 2009 the average rate of overcrowding for prisons serving the Greater Manchester area were as follows:

	Percentage
Buckley Hall	17.9
Forest Bank	58.2
Hindley	0
Manchester	53.4

It remains our priority to reduce overcrowding by increasing capacity through building new prisons, expanding existing prisons and making more effective use of the estate.

Reoffenders

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people on home detention curfew reoffended between 1999 and 2009; [296770]

(2) how many people released under an early release scheme reoffended in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [296771]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice records the number of alleged offences while on early custody licence (ECL) and has recently released figures of offenders who reoffended while on home detention curfew (HDC).

Data on ECL releases, recalls and alleged reoffending are published every month on the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

During the period 29 June 2007 (the start of the scheme) to 30 September 2009 (the latest data available), 1,058 offenders have been notified to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) as alleged to have committed a further offence while on the scheme. Table 1 gives the further breakdown by period.

Table 1: Number of offenders alleged to have committed a further offence while on ECL by period

	29 June to 31 December 2007	*1 January to 31 December 2008*	*1 January to 30 September 2009*
Total ECL releases	16,197	31,318	22,362
Offenders alleged to have committed the further offences while on ECL[1]	215	497	346

[1] The number of offenders notified to NOMS as having allegedly reoffended during their period on ECL.

The latest figures on reoffending while on home detention curfew were released by this Department in a written ministerial statement on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 142-44WS Table 2 gives the number of offenders who have been convicted for an offence while on HDC between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

Table 2: Number of offenders who have been convicted for an offence while on HDC, 2003-04 to 2007-08, England and Wales

	Offenders on HDC	*Offenders who reoffended while on HDC*
2003-04	20,802	1,244
2004-05	18,587	839
2005-06	15,443	688
2006-07	12,626	484
2007-08	11,316	486

Data prior to 2003-04 are not available. This statement is available from the Library of the House.

The Ministry of Justice will be consulting on the publication of data in respect of offenders who reoffend while on licence in due course.

Secure Accommodation: Young Offender Institutions

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the statutory authority is for placing children in secure training centres; and if he will make a statement. [296968]

Maria Eagle: Secure training centres were established by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) was established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales Order 2000 (SI 1160) amended the function of the YJB to include the authority to place young people into custody, including secure training centres, on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Secure Accommodation: Young Offenders

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what secure accommodation provision is in place for juvenile offenders from *(a)* Reading, *(b)* Berkshire and *(c)* the South East. [295939]

Maria Eagle: There are no establishments in the under-18 secure estate in Reading or Berkshire. The Youth Justice Board commissions 941 beds in London and the South East comprising:

Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institution

Downview Young Offenders Institution

Feltham Young Offenders Institution

Huntercombe Young Offenders Institution

Oakhill Secure Training Centre

Medway Secure Training Centre

Swanwick Lodge Secure Children's Home

Theft: Sentencing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum sentence is for the offence of the theft of a purse. [296662]

Mr. Straw: The maximum penalty for theft is seven years' imprisonment. There is no minimum penalty.

Young Offenders: Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what educational assessments are carried out on each young offender entering each young offender institution, with particular reference to Reading Young Offender Institution. [295936]

Maria Eagle: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which commissions learning delivered in pubic sector prisons in England, requires its providers to assess an individual's basic skills level, particularly in numeracy, language and literacy, if assessment has not already taken place. The outcomes of the assessments are used to place offenders in appropriate learning.

Reading prison and young offender institution undertakes this assessment as part of the induction programme for young offenders which also includes screening for dyslexia. In addition an individual diagnostic assessment is undertaken by tutors for offenders joining classes to improve literacy and/or numeracy in order to determine the individual's current level so that learning can be further tailored to individual requirements.

Young Offenders: Self-Harm

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders in custody *(a)* committed suicide and *(b)* self-harmed in each of the last five years. [296444]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) collects data on self-inflicted deaths and self-harm for young offenders who are held in prison custody, and not for those held in secure training centres (STCs) and secure children's homes (SCHs). These establishments are the responsibility of the Youth Justice Board and local authorities respectively. Numbers of prisoner suicides and incidents of self-harm are collated from the NOMS incident reporting system in prisons.

Tables 1 and 2 give the numbers of self-inflicted deaths and self-harming individuals respectively involving young offenders in prison custody for the years 2004 to 2008. The term "Young Offenders" covers young people aged 15 to 17 and young adults aged 18 to 21.

Table 1: Recorded numbers of self-inflicted deaths of young offenders, 2004 to 2008

Age group	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2001*	*2008*
Young people 15 to 17 years	—	2	—	1	—
Young adults 18 to 21 years	6	10	2	6	5
Total	6	12	2	7	5

NOMS' definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Table 2: Recorded numbers of young offenders who have self-harmed for 2004 to 2008

Age group	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Young people 15 to 17 years	317	434	381	344	430
Young adults 18 to 21 years	970	1,053	1,124	1,140	1,194

Note:

These are approximate numbers of individuals, based on incidents of self-harm where the prisoner number was recorded. Recorded self-harm is a high volume incident. The data are drawn from the prison administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Nevertheless, the system provides a sensible indication of the numbers of incidents and individuals who self-harm but the numbers should not be treated as absolute.

Every death in prison is a tragedy, and affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers, the Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service are committed to learning from each death and to reducing the number of such incidents. Good care and support from staff save many lives, but such instances go largely unreported. Prisons successfully keep safe in any given month approximately 1,500 prisoners assessed to be at particular risk of suicide or self harm. Deaths in prisons are among the most scrutinised of all incidents and each case is subject to a police investigation and independent investigation by the prisons probation ombudsman. Robust systems are in place for monitoring deaths and learning from them.

All prisoners identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm, including young offenders, are cared for using the assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) procedures. This is a prisoner-focussed care planning system for those at risk. Most self harm is not directly life threatening, but nevertheless can be extremely distressing for those who have to deal with it. There are no easy answers to managing self-harming behaviour but we remain committed to finding ways to reduce it.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the additional specialties required to provide the range of services to be offered at the proposed major trauma centre of St Mary's, Paddington; which of these specialties are available at the Royal Free Hospital; and if he will make a statement; [296582]

(2) what assessment he has made of likely changes to the provision of accident and emergency services at *(a)* Barnet Hospital, *(b)* the Royal Free Hospital and *(c)* Northwick Park Hospital following the entry into operation of the proposed new major trauma centres; and if he will make a statement; [296584]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely change in the services to be provided at *(a)* the Royal Free Hospital and *(b)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals following the entry into operation of the proposed hyperacute stroke units in London; and if he will make a statement. [296585]

(4) what additional specialties are required to be established at the sites of each of the proposed major trauma centres in London; by what date such specialties will have been provided at each proposed site; and if he will make a statement; [296592]

(5) what date he has set for implementation of the proposed *(a)* hyperacute stroke centres and *(b)* major trauma centres in London; and if he will make a statement; [296593]

(6) what progress has been made on the implementation of the plan for *(a)* hyperacute stroke units and *(b)* major trauma units; what steps the London Ambulance Service has taken to amend its provision of services in advance of the implementation of such units; and if he will make a statement. [296594]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for NHS London and I have passed the question to the chief executive with a request to write to my hon. Friend.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Waiting Lists

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of wait for treatment for a patient arriving at the Norfolk and Norwich University Trust Accident and Emergency facility was in *(a)* May, *(b)* June, *(c)* July, *(d)* August, *(e)* September and *(f)* October 2009. [296021]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on average waiting times in accident and emergency (A&E) facilities is not collected centrally. Trusts submit information on time spent from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge in hourly time bands. This information for Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust accident and emergency facilities is shown in the following table. This information is taken from the Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency dataset originally published on 14 August 2009 and revised 18 August 2009.

Department type	*Time bands (Hours)*	*Total attendances*
Type 1 (Consultant-led department)	0-1	3,208
	1-2	6,671
	2-3	5,572
	3-4	5,385
	Over 4	280
Type 3 (Minor injuries unit)	0-1	2,284
	1-2	579
	2-3	71
	3-4	6
	Over 4	0
Walk-in centre	0-1	7,037
	1-2	283
	2-3	6
	3-4	3
	Over 4	0

In the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, during the first quarter of 2009-10, there were a total of 31,385 attendances at accident and emergency facilities, and 99.11 per cent. of those patients were admitted, transferred or discharged less than four hours after arrival.

Aortic Aneurysm

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* general practices provide ultra sound screening for aortic aneurysms, with particular reference to screening for men over 60 years old; and if he will make a statement. [297482]

Ann Keen: Information about the number of hospitals and general practices providing ultra sound screening for aortic aneurysms is not held centrally.

Since the ministerial announcement in January 2008 of an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme for men aged 65, six early implementation sites are now offering screening to national standards. These are: West Sussex, Leicester, Gloucester, South Manchester, South Devon and Exeter, and South West London.

Full implementation of the screening programme across England is expected by the end of 2012-13.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he plans to implement those recommendations in the Archer Report on contaminated blood and blood products which the Government have accepted. [297298]

Gillian Merron: The Government's response to Lord Archer's report was published on 20 May 2009. Implementation to date of the Government's response to the report is as follows:

Recommendation 1 (A committee to advise the Government on the management of haemophilia)—the first meeting with the Haemophilia Alliance will be held on 20 November 2009. Representatives from the Health Departments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and a member from the independent advisory committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) have been invited to attend.

Recommendations 2 and 3 (Haemophilia patients, their partners, and all blood donors to receive any tests recommended by the committee)—no specific implementation date required as any new relevant tests will be considered by the Alliance or SaBTO as and when they arise.

Recommendation 4 (Free prescriptions and free access to other services "not freely available under the national health service including...general practitioner visits, counselling, physiotherapy, home nursing and support services" for those infected)—Professor Ian Gilmore's review of prescription charges in England for those with long term conditions, is due to report shortly. The Government will consider whether further action is required in England to implement Lord Archer's recommendation following the Gilmore review.

Recommendation 5 (Secure future of Haemophilia Society by adequate funding)—the Government have committed £100,000 per annum funding to the Haemophilia Society for the next five years. The Department has discussed this with the Haemophilia Society on a number of occasions and is currently awaiting a written proposal from the Society to enable the funds to be released.

Recommendation 6 (Financial assistance should be increased and take the form of prescribed periodic payments)—funding to the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts (for HIV) is being increased in line with the Government response. Some administrative and legal changes have been needed to enable the trusts to make these new payments, but it is anticipated that beneficiaries should receive their new payments in December 2009 with any back-payments being made before the end of March 2010. All payments will be back-dated to 20 May 2009 and payments will be made to the estates of any individual who has died since 20 May 2009. As indicated in the Government response, the Skipton Fund (for hepatitis C) will be reviewed in 2014.

Recommendation 7 (Access to insurance by providing premiums or setting up separate scheme)—no implementation date required as the Government's position is as outlined in its response.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the NHS is making on the provision of breast screening for women in Hendon constituency; and if he will make a statement. [296588]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

Nationally, breast screening is provided every three years for all women in England aged 50 and over. Currently, women aged between 50 to 70 years are invited routinely and women over the age of 70 can request free three-yearly screening.

In September 2007, the Department announced proposals to extend the age range of women eligible for routine breast screening to women between the ages of 47 and 73 years by 2012. As a result, around 400,000 more women will be screened each year.

"The Cancer Reform Strategy", published in 2007 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), is supporting the roll out of digital mammography for breast screening, an x-ray examination of the breasts, which can show breast cancers at an early stage. For the roll out approximately £120 million has been allocated to NHS trusts as part of the wider capital funding. They must ensure that all breast screening units have at least one full-field digital mammography set by 2010.

Cancer

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of *(a)* the symptoms of various forms of cancer and *(b)* the practice of regular self-examination for such symptoms. [296493]

Ann Keen: Through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, we are raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer among healthcare professionals and the general public, and encouraging those people with symptoms that may be cancer to seek advice as early as possible. This work includes developing key messages on a number of cancers, carrying out a baseline national cancer symptom awareness survey, commissioning an audit of cancer diagnoses in primary care, and providing funding for a number of cancer awareness campaigns.

As part of the Initiative, almost £5 million has been allocated to the national health service to support cancer networks and primary care trusts in implementing local services that will improve awareness of cancers and promote early diagnosis.

We do not promote the practice of routine self-examination for cancer symptoms as people's bodies, particularly women's, can feel different at different times. However, it is important that people are aware of their bodies and what is normal for them, and that they report any changes as early and as soon as possible. We have collaborated with Cancer Research UK to produce a breast awareness leaflet, Be Breast Aware, and a testicular cancer leaflet, "Detecting Testicular Cancer—Spot the Symptoms Early."

Childbirth

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of induced births was at each maternity unit in the NHS in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [296611]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. Tables which show delivery episodes where there was an induced labour in national health service hospitals, broken down by type of induced labour, hospital provider and trust, for the years 2006-07 to 2008-09, have been placed in the Library.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the new draft dental access contract was discussed with *(a)* representative bodies and *(b)* dental stakeholders before it was passed by his Department to primary care trusts; [296457]

(2) what timetable his Department has set for piloting the new draft dental access contract; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of those pilots. [296460]

Ann Keen: The Department's Dental Access Programme has been working with the national health service to increase patient access to NHS dentistry. As part of this it has been developing a contract template, based on the existing personal dental services (PDS) regulations to help primary care trusts (PCTs) to tender for new dental services in their area. The template, which is designed to be adaptable to local needs, includes a number of optional schedules for PCTs to choose what is best for their local circumstances. It is not a new contract: all of it is within the current PDS regulations. Its use is optional for PCTs, many of which are developing their own contracts, using the existing flexibilities within the regulations.

The template, which is still being finalised, is intended to set out more clearly existing requirements, which might, at present, be in a number of documents, and to focus more clearly on quality of dental services, as well as volumes of activity. To ensure this is transparent and helpful we have been discussing the template with a wide range of interested parties including PCTs, the British Dental Association (BDA), and dental services providers, as well as Professor Jimmy Steele and his Independent Review team.

A series of detailed meetings has taken place with the BDA—which has been engaged from the outset of the Dental Access Programme with presentations at the national provider workshops and attendance at regional strategic health authority/PCT workshops.

Two national workshops for potential providers were held, in Manchester and London on 27 and 28 April 2009 respectively, to discuss the Department's plans for the development of the PDS Agreement and to take feedback from providers. The national workshops were followed by more focused meetings with a broad range of providers to discuss developments on the contract. Over 40 meetings have so far taken place.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the use of the new draft dental access contract as a basis for contractual discussions with prospective practitioners in *(a)* existing and *(b)* new practices. [296458]

Ann Keen: The contract template developed for the Dental Access Programme is intended to be available to primary care trusts (PCTs) to use for new procurements of new national health service dental services, if they wish. Comprehensive guidance, including several user guides (covering the contract provisions, insurance, pensions, premises etc.), will be provided for commissioning PCTs when the template is finalised. In addition, a series of workshops will be held regionally for strategic health authorities and PCTs, and e-mail/telephone technical support will be provided. The full programme of workshops and support available to PCTs will be confirmed when the template has been finalised.

The Department is also planning regional workshops for interested providers to inform them of the developments made to the Personal Dental Services Agreement and to provide introductory information on procurement process—including information about how they can bid for new services.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what timetable his Department has set for public consultation on the new draft dental access contract; [296459]

(2) what form the *(a)* pilot and *(b)* public consultation on the new draft dental access contract will take; [296461]

(3) in what ways the new draft dental access contract programme takes account of the recommendations made in the report on the Independent Review of NHS Dentistry. [296465]

Ann Keen: There is no new dental access contract. The contract template currently being developed by the Dental Access Programme is designed to be adaptable, and includes a number of optional schedules for primary care trusts (PCTs) to consider, based on what is best for their local circumstances. The template is within the current Personal Dental Services (PDS) regulations and Statement of Financial Entitlements. Its use is optional for PCTs, many of whom are developing their own contracts, using the existing flexibilities within the regulations.

We intend, however, to use some of the contracts that PCTs will let using the new templates, to pilot aspects of improved quality and access, which were set out in the independent Steele Review of national health service dentistry. As part of the development of the contract template, members of the Dental Access Programme have discussed the quality provisions with members of the Steele Review team.

No formal public consultation on the proposed, optional, PDS contract templates has been undertaken—nor is required. However, we have had a number of discussions with a wide range of interested parties including dentists, PCTs, and the British Dental Association over the previous six months.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his officials commenced drafting the new draft dental access contract; and on what date this work was completed. [296462]

Ann Keen: There is no new dental access contract. As part of its work to increase access to national health service dentistry, the Department's Dental Access Programme has been developing a new contract template, which is designed to be adaptable to local needs, and is within existing Personal Dental Services Regulations.

Work on the template started in April of this year, and continues as we discuss it with interested parties. Discussions with interested parties have been ongoing since April—the British Dental Association supported the initial national provider workshops in April with presentations. We hope to finalise the template very soon.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates his officials met external organisations during the preparation of the new draft dental access contract. [296463]

Ann Keen: There is no new dental access contract. As part of its work to increase access to national health service dentistry, the Department's Dental Access Programme has been developing a new contract template, which is designed to be adaptable to local needs, and is within existing Personal Dental Services Regulations. The template documents have been discussed with a wide number of organisations and interested parties. Over 40 meetings have so far taken place.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of drafting the new draft dental access contract. [296464]

Ann Keen: No accurate estimate is possible of the costs of drafting the new optional Personal Dental Services templates as the work has formed part of a wider programme, which cannot be disaggregated.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 101W, on dental services, if he will place in the Library a copy of the notes seen by officials of his Department in relation to the visits by the chief dental officer or his representatives to *(a)* maxillofacial and *(b)* dental hospitals which were subsequently used in the production of the report by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board on oral and maxillofacial surgery; [297659]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 101W, on dental services, on what date each unit was visited; for what reasons each unit was selected for a visit; who the representatives of the review body were at each visit; what the role of each such representative was during the visit; in what format the data were collected in each case; and in what format the data were passed to the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board secretariat. [297660]

Ann Keen: The dates of the visits were Royal Lancaster Infirmary 4 July 2007, Great Western hospital Swindon 25 July 2007, Royal Sussex Brighton 6 November 2007, Sunderland Royal hospital 20 November 2007, Royal London 21 December 2007, Southern General Glasgow 14 January 2008. The units were selected to enable the working group to meet with service providers in departments of differing composition and serving different population needs. The original programme of visits was extended at the suggestion of working group members and contributors, to ensure that the working group saw an appropriate balance of type and size of unit.

All visits were made by selected members of the working group and secretariat whose names are given on page 3 of the report. There was no formal programme, the intention was to give the staff of the units the opportunity to present to the working group what they saw to be relevant to the review. The terms of the review did not extend to formal reporting on the visits and any notes taken are not in an appropriate format for placing in the Library. The overall findings, as summarised in the report, were that there should be no change to the current statutory requirement for those training in oral maxillofacial surgery to obtain primary qualifications in both medicine and dentistry but that there should be a separate review of the specialty of oral surgery. This review is now underway.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296053]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following publication of the Operational Efficiency Programme, I have been appointed as the Department's Value for Money Minister. The Department is working with Her Majesty's Treasury and other delivery partners to implement the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme. There are a wide range of learning and development opportunities available for both Ministers and officials in the Department, many of which contribute towards the more effective delivery of value for money.

Doctors: Sports

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant physician posts in sport and exercise medicine have been created in the NHS in the last three years. [295501]

Ann Keen: Sport and exercise medicine is a new medical specialty, established in 2006, when four posts were created and identified on the national health service work force census. It is not possible to say whether further posts have been created that have not been filled as this information is not collected centrally.

The following table gives the number of sport and exercise consultants in the last three years.

	Headcount
2006	4
2007	4
2008	3

On average it can take between three and five years of full-time specialist training in a defined programme before a doctor can be appointed as a consultant in sport and exercise medicine (SEM). Doctors with sports medicine experience are not all going to be consultants in SEM.

Down's Syndrome

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of provision of healthcare services for those with Down's Syndrome; and what recent research his Department has evaluated on the incidence of Down's Syndrome. [296806]

Phil Hope: The Department does not single out any condition when raising awareness around learning disability, although the Department recognises the excellent awareness work carried out by third sector groups, which support people with Down's Syndrome and their families.

"Valuing People Now", published in January 2009 is a strategy that addresses people with learning disabilities having control over their lives and services, including what people do during the day, how they can be supported to access jobs, housing, better healthcare, and making sure that change happens.

The Department funds the Congenital Anomaly Register for Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire (CAROBB). CAROBB is based at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford, and collects information, including incidence data, on Down's Syndrome and other congenital anomalies. Further details, including CAROBB's first report, can be found at:

www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/carobb

Haemophilia

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 900W, on haemophilia, what assessment his Department has made of the pathogenic effect of multiple virus exposure on haemophiliacs; and if he will make a statement. [296896]

Gillian Merron: The Department has made no such assessment. However, the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organisation ensures that all relevant tests and assessment for transfusion-transmitted infections are offered to haemophilia patients.

Health Services: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* per inmate on healthcare for inmates of young offender institutions in 2008-09. [296971]

Phil Hope: In 2008-09 healthcare allocations (including targeted mental health in-reach funding) to establishments within the young offender institutions and young person estate totalled £29,108,000.

Based on an operational capacity of 8,186 for the dedicated young offender institutions and young person's estate as at January 2009, this equates to per place cost of £4,685.

Heart Diseases: Barnet Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing treatments for cardiac conditions at Barnet Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [296589]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

Hospital Wards: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on the introduction of the productive ward concept at *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, *(b)* Northwick Park Hospital and *(c)* the Royal Free Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [296597]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage cost was of *(a)* surgical and *(b)* other treatments in (i) Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, (ii) the Royal Free Hospital and (iii) Northwick Park Hospital as compared with the benchmark reference cost in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [296646]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table, which shows the reference cost index (RCI) for these national health service providers for the last three available financial years.

RCIs including excess bed days 2005-06 to 2007-08

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	104	99	96
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	97	100	107
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	96	96	103

Notes:
1. The RCI is the standard way of comparing reference costs between NHS organisations, and is a widely recognised measure of relative efficiency. It is not available for surgical and other treatments.
2. The RCI shows the average cost of an NHS organisation's aggregate activity, compared with the same activity delivered at the national average cost. By comparing with the national average for each type of treatment, the complexity of care provided is taken into account. An organisation with costs equal to the national average will have an RCI of 100, with higher cost organisations scoring above 100 and lower cost organisations scoring below 100.
3. 2005-06 reference costs were collected on a Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) 3.5 basis.
4. 2006-07 and 2007-08 reference costs were collected on a HRG4 basis.
5. The 2007-08 reference costs are the latest publicly available.
6. Reference costs are collected at trust level, and not hospital level. Northwick Park Hospital is part of North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.
7. A RCI of 125 means that the costs are 25 per cent. above the average while a RCI of 92 shows costs are 8 per cent. below the average.
8. The RCIs are market forces factor (MFF) adjusted. Providers based in some areas of the country, e.g. London and the South East, have higher costs for staff, land and buildings due to external market forces. The MFF is a method for taking this into account.

Source:
Department of Health Payment by Results team.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial position of *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, *(b)* the Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust and (iii) Northwick Park Hospital NHS Trust (i) is and (ii) was at the end of the most recent financial year; and if he will make a statement. [296647]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data are collected on a trust level. Northwick Park Hospital is part of North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, and so figures for the latter are shown. The figures are in the following table:

£000

Organisation	*2008-09 Annual accounts surplus/(deficit)*	*2009-10 Quarter 1 Forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust	155	3,000
North West London Hospital NHS Trust	117	(12,000)
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	3,791	471

The Department is working through the strategic health authority to ensure that all the organisations forecasting an operating deficit in 2009-10 are developing recovery plans to return to financial balance whilst still maintaining and improving services to patients.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile was at (i) Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, (ii) the Royal Free Hospital and (iii) Northwick Park Hospital in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [296598]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested.

Data on the incidence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, and data on the incidence of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) for 2007-08 and 2008-09 Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust are given as follows.

Cases of MRSA bloodstream infections reported under the mandatory surveillance scheme

MRSA bacteraemia	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	62	54	30
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	75	31	18
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	51	33	29

Cases of C. difficile bloodstream infections in people aged two years and over reported under the mandatory surveillance scheme (trust-apportioned number)

C. difficile	2007-08	2008-09
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	173	62
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	179	52
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	211	155

Notes:
1. Data are published by acute trust. Northwick Park Hospital is part of North West London Hospitals NHS Trust and information for this trust is included in the tables above.
2. Under the mandatory surveillance scheme, national health service acute trust laboratories report all cases of MRSA bloodstream infections, not just those from in-patients, and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.
3. Under the mandatory surveillance scheme, NHS acute trusts report episodes of *C. difficile* infection in people aged two years and over. The scheme was 'enhanced' in April 2007 to include patient-level data for all patients aged two years and over. We are therefore only able to provide data for the last two years.
4. The 'trust apportioned number' refers to infections which are presumed to be hospital acquired.

Source:
Health Protection Agency, mandatory surveillance reporting schemes for MRSA and *C. difficile* infections.

Hospitals: Reorganisation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on the reconfiguration of services between Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [296648]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Steps have been taken to implement the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy, part of which involves the reconfiguration of services at Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals. Most of the Independent Review Panel's recommendations have been implemented, with implementation of the rest already under way.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his assessment is of the effects of the abolition of waiting time targets on patients awaiting operations at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust. [296643]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As set out in the "Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2009-10", the minimum expectation is that 90 per cent. of admitted patients will start consultant-led treatment within 18-weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner to start of their treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer.

Latest figures for August 2009 show that 94.6 per cent. of patients at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18-weeks, and 98.5 per cent. of patients at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18-weeks.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the performance was as against waiting time targets for *(a)* operations, *(b)* accident and emergency, *(c)* outpatient services and *(d)* cancer services in (i) Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, (ii) the Royal Free Hospital and (iii) Northwick Park Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [296645]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data are collected at a trust level. The figures for waiting times are in the following tables (inpatient figures are a proxy for operations data):

The performance waiting time target for inpatients is 100 per cent. within 26-weeks.

Inpatient median waiting times—August 2009-10

Organisation	Median waiting time (weeks)
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	5.8
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust[1]	5.6
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	5.9

[1] The information requested is not collected by individual hospitals, it is collected by Trusts. Northwick Park hospital is part of North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, and so figures for the latter are shown.

Source:
Monthly monitoring report (MMR)—provider based
August 2009-10

Outpatient median waiting times—August 2009-10

Organisation	Median waiting time (weeks)
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	4.5
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	2.6
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	2.9

Source:
Monthly monitoring report (MMR)—Provider based
August 2009-10

Data on accident and emergency (A&E) waiting times are not available in the format requested. The Department has set a national standard that patients should not wait more than four hours in A and E departments from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. A 98 per cent. minimum operating figure allows for the minority of patients who clinically need more than four hours in A and E.

Latest data for quarter one 2009-10 show Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust achieved 98.9 per cent., Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust 98.7 per cent., and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, which includes Northwick Park hospital, 98.5 per cent. The performance reported is the result of activity corresponding to A and E departments at sites within the trust and additionally activity at mapped type three facilities operated by partner primary care trusts and the independent sector. Data are split by A and E department type but are not available at hospital site level.

Published performance for the last full year and latest quarter for the three trusts has been:

Percentage of patients who spent less than four hours in A and E (all types)

	2008-09	Quarter 1 2009-10
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	98.5	98.9
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	98.1	98.7
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	98.2	98.5

For cancer waiting times, the operational standard for the two week waits standard has been set at 93 per cent., allowing patients to exercise patient choice.

The information is shown in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Housebound Patients

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS patients in England who are housebound. [297501]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Maternity Services: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* midwives, *(b)* doctors below consultant grade and *(c)* consultants were employed in maternity services at (i) Barnet Hospital, (ii) Chase Farm Hospital, (iii) the Royal Free Hospital and (iv) Northwick Park Hospital in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [296586]

Ann Keen: Workforce planning is a matter for local determination as local workforce planners are best placed to assess the health care needs of their local population. The Department continues to ensure the frameworks are in place to enable effective local workforce planning.

The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table:

National health service hospital and community health services, medical staff in the obstetrics and gynaecology specialty and qualified maternity services nurses by level within specific NHS trusts as at 30 September each year

	2006	2007	2008
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust			
All medical and dental staff	47	47	47
Consultant	10	12	15
All other grades	37	35	32
All qualified maternity services nurses	310	322	331
Nurse Consultant	1	1	1
Modern Matron	5	4	7
Manager	3	3	1
Registered nurse—Children	24	18	18
Registered midwife	243	252	266
Other 1st level	30	40	35
Other 2nd level	4	4	3
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust			
All medical and dental staff	40	35	39
Consultant	11	9	14
All other grades	29	26	25
All qualified maternity services nurses	132	98	118
Modern Matron	0	0	4
Registered midwife	131	97	113
Other 2nd level	1	1	1
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust			
All medical and dental staff	46	46	44
Consultant	11	13	12
All other grades	35	33	32
All qualified maternity services nurses	230	229	250
Modern matron	0	0	5
Registered nurse—children	40	41	117
Registered midwife	116	120	117
Other 1st level	68	61	80
Other 2nd level	2	2	6

Notes:

1. Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust includes the following hospitals: Barnet General hospital, Chase Farm hospital, Edgware Community hospital, Finchley Memorial hospital and Potters Bar hospital.
2. Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust includes the following hospitals: Queen Mary's hospital, Royal Free hospital, and the Royal Throat, Nose and Ear hospital.
3. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care is aware of the apparent drop in the number of midwives for this organisation in 2007. This is due to the inclusion of bank staff, which dropped to zero in 2007. The number of permanent midwives employed by the trust has remained steady in each year, at 92 in 2006, 97 in 2007 and 95 in 2008.
4. North West London Hospitals NHS Trust includes the following hospitals: Central Middlesex hospital, Northwick Park hospital and St. Mark's.
5. Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census, and The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned into the merits of including societal costs and benefits within technology appraisals made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [297452]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have commissioned the University of York to undertake detailed research in this area. We expect the research findings to be published later in 2009-10.

Neurology: Plastic Surgery

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* the Royal Free Hospital and *(b)* St. Mary's, Paddington offers (i) neurosurgery and (ii) plastic surgery services; and if he will make a statement. [296591]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for using their resources to plan, commission and develop services to meet the health needs of their local community.

NHS: Equality

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further measures his Department is considering to ensure racial equality and tolerance in the NHS. [297212]

Phil Hope: The NHS Constitution of 2009 has equality at its heart requiring national health service organisations to provide a comprehensive service, available to all irrespective of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

The newly formed NHS Equality and Diversity Council, chaired by the NHS chief executive, will champion equality in the NHS and seek assurances on future progress.

The Department will build on the work of a number of programmes with a focus on equality. Race for Health is sharing learning about race equality to the NHS, and Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care continues to generate system change. Pacesetters actively works with the NHS to innovate, identify and imbed good practice across all the equality strands for both patients and staff.

In line with the NHS Constitution, the NHS aims to attract, retain and develop the best talent from all sections of the local communities they serve. The Department continues to work with NHS Employers and the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement to promote good workforce practices and improve the career prospects of under represented staff.

Nurses: Manpower

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many district nurses are employed by *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* acute trusts and *(c)* GP practices; [297550]

(2) how many district nurses were working in *(a)* general practices, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other health settings. [297551]

Ann Keen: District nurses are employed by national health service trusts and NHS primary care trusts. They are not employed by general practices, hospitals or in any other health care setting.

The following table gives the number of district nurses employed in these two organisations as at the last work force census, 30 September 2008.

	District nurse level 1	*District nurse level 2*
Trusts	53	27
Primary Care Trust	7,607	816
Total	7,659	843

Nutrition: Children

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is in respect of the regulation of the levels of sugar and salt contained in foods and drinks marketed at children. [296489]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is working with the United Kingdom food and drinks industry on a voluntary basis to reformulate foods to reduce the levels of salt and sugar present in a range of foods and drinks, including those aimed at children, focusing on those foods which contribute significantly to intakes of these nutrients.

The FSA has set salt reduction targets for around 80 categories of food to be met by the food industry by 2010, and further stricter targets for 2012. In July 2009 the FSA issued a public consultation which includes draft recommendations to the food industry to reduce sugar levels and portion sizes of sugar-containing soft drinks.

The Government have regulated to limit the amounts of salt, fat and sugars served to children over the school day through the statutory school food standards (The Education (Nutritional Standards and Requirements for School Food)(England) Regulations 2007, as amended). The statutory standards provide nutrient standards to be met for 14 nutrients within the food provision. To support this, the FSA developed Target Nutrient Specifications for manufactured products served as part of school lunches. These voluntary specifications cover manufactured products across 40 food categories and provide guidance for the level of salt, total fat, saturated fat, and sugars within each category that if procured would reduce these nutrients in the overall menu provision. These specifications are currently under review.

Operating Theatres: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what percentage of time operating theatres were in use at *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, *(b)* the Royal Free Hospital, *(c)* Northwick Park Hospital and *(d)* Edgware Community Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [296601]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to palliative care in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands in each of the last 10 years. [297493]

Phil Hope: We do not collect information on national health service expenditure on palliative, and/or end-of-life care services centrally.

An additional £286 million revenue and capital funding is being made available over 2009-10 and 2010-11 to support the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy. For 2010-11, this includes capital funding of £40 million for hospices. However, the majority of the funding is being allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) through the 2009-10 and 2010-11 revenue allocations, so all PCTs will receive a portion of this funding.

It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account both local priorities and the NHS operating framework.

Patient Choice Schemes: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average time taken was to answer a call to the appointment booking system at *(a)* the Royal Free Hospital and *(b)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals in the latest period for which figures are available; what percentage of calls to each system were not answered in that period; and if he will make a statement; [296604]

(2) for how many rings on average a person seeking to make an appointment via the telephone booking system at *(a)* the Royal Free Hospital, *(b)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust and *(c)* Northwick Park Hospital waited before being connected in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [296620]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally.

Patient Choice Schemes: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in implementing the choose and book system for patients in Hendon constituency; and if he will make a statement. [296600]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The choose and book system is in place across all general practitioners practices in England including those in the Hendon constituency which falls under Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT). The Department continues to provide national support and guidance to ensure the choose and book system is utilised effectively in all PCTs.

Patients: Attendance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to reduce levels of non-attendance at appointments at *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals *(b)* Northwick Park Hospital and *(c)* the Royal Free Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [296602]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local trusts. In 2008 the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement created a tool to be used by hospitals to examine the causes for patient non-attendance and provides guidance on what hospitals can do to reduce the level of 'did not attends'.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients did not attend for *(a)* operations and *(b)* out-patient appointments at (i) Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, (ii) the Royal Free Hospital and (iii) Northwick Park Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [296603]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of patients failing to attend operations is not held centrally. Information on the number of patients who failed to attend out-patient appointments is collected by hospital trust and included in the following tables.

Count and percentage of appointments[1] where the patient did not attend[2] in 2007-08 and 2008-09[3] (provisional full year)

Provider code	*Hospital provider*	*Total appointments[1]*	*Total did not attend[2]*	*Percentage*
2008-09[3] provisional data (full year)				
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust	621,356	54,962	8.8
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	401,267	53,565	13.3
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	782,314	83,048	10.6
2007-08 final data				
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust[4]	250,198	31,187	12.5
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	371,375	49,873	13.4
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	698,299	73,249	10.5

[1] Appointment count:
This provides a count of the number of planned/booked appointments for out-patients. The database is constructed of one row per appointment that was made, whether it was attended or not.

[2] Attendance type:
Attendance type identifies if the patient attended an appointment, and if it was first or subsequent attendance, or if the appointment was cancelled or the patient did not attend. This field is complete for over 99 per cent. of appointments.
In this case, attendance types included in the count of total not attending, were:
Four—did not attend first appointment
Five—did not attend subsequent appointment
Six—did not attend, first/subsequent/tele unknown
24—did not attend first tele consultation (2008-09 only)
25—Did not attend subsequent tele consultation (2008-09 only)

[3] Provisional data:
The data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period, i.e. November from the (month nine) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be a variety of errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.

[4] Data Quality note:
In 2007-08 there was a shortfall in the data submitted by Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust between August and December 2007. For this reason, the total appointment count and total did not attend count would have actually been significantly larger in this year and so caution must be taken before drawing any conclusions on this trust.

Note:
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES): Out-patients, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Patients: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from the postcode *(a)* NW4, *(b)* NW7, *(c)* NW9 and *(d)* HA8 were treated at (i) Barnet Hospital, (ii) Chase Farm Hospital, (iii) the Royal Free Hospital and (iv) Northwick Park Hospital for (A) inpatient and (B) outpatient appointments in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [296590]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the tables as follows:

A count of in-patient finished admission episodes of patients from post codes HA8, NW4, NW7 and NW9 to Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust, North West London NHS trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust between 2008-09 and 2006-07

Postcode	*Code*	*Provider*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Total			32,023	24,814	30,045
HA8	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	7,031	3,491	6,117
	RV8	North West London NHS Trust	3,201	3,102	3,412
	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	2,176	2,265	1,970
NW4	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	1,114	561	1,106
	RV8	North West London NHS Trust	207	217	271
	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	3,253	3,461	3,416
NW7	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	3,487	1,618	2,962
	RV8	North West London NHS trust	151	170	219
	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust	1,064	1,229	1,091
NW9	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	3,154	1,484	2,557
	RV8	North West London NHS Trust	5,162	5,160	5,089
	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	2,023	2,056	1,835

Notes:

1. We are unable to provide information for specific hospitals. We have provided data for the care providers to which the hospitals belong. Barnet Hospital and Chase Farm hospital are part of the Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust, the Royal Free hospital is part of the Royal Free Hampstead hospitals trust, and Northwick Park hospital belongs to the North West London hospitals NHS trust.
2. The data provided are for activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
3. In-patients are defined as patients who are admitted to hospital and occupy a bed, including both admissions where an overnight stay is planned and day cases.
4. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
5. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards [illegible] may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
6. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

A count of out-patient attended appointments of patients from post codes HA8, NW4, NW7 and NW9 to Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust, North West London NHS trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust between 2008-09 and 2006-07

Postcode	*Code*	*Provider*	*2008-09 (Provisional)*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Total			157,350	117,255	131,108
HA8	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	30,045	14,788	24,601
	RV8	North West London NHS Trust	10,696	10,555	11,119
	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	19,332	17,280	14,649
NW4	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	5,087	2,240	3,992
	RV8	North West London NHS Trust	824	875	815
	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	20,194	19,328	17,347
NW7	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	13,506	6,189	10,656
	RV8	North West London NHS Trust	674	793	770
	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust	9,447	8,793	7,374

A count of out-patient attended appointments of patients from post codes HA8, NW4, NW7 and NW9 to Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust, North West London NHS trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust between 2008-09 and 2006-07

Postcode	*Code*	*Provider*	*2008-09 (Provisional)*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
NW9	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	14,164	6,702	10,995
	RV8	North West London NHS Trust	17,871	16,334	17,162
	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	15,510	13,378	11,628

Notes:

1. We are unable to provide information for specific hospitals. We have provided data for the care providers to which the hospitals belong. Barnet Hospital and Chase Farm hospital are part of the Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust, the Royal Free hospital is part of the Royal Free Hampstead hospitals trust, and Northwick Park hospital belongs to the North West London hospitals NHS trust.
2. The data provided are for activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
3. Out-patient HES data were collected for the first time in 2003-04. It is not mandatory to code procedures on outpatient records and therefore only around 2 per cent. of records have completed clinical codes. We have no reliable existing data source to validate these data against, as Department of Health aggregate returns have never collected clinical codes; it is not clear how representative the figures are. The data represent a sample of out-patient attendances. Statistical estimates (such as median and 90th percentile waiting times for main operations) must be regarded as potentially unreliable until it is possible to assess the quality of local coding.
4. This provides a count of the number of planned/booked appointments for out-patients. The database is constructed of one row per appointment that was made, whether it was attended or not however only out-patients that did attend have been included in the above table.
5. The data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period, i.e. November from the (month 9) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be a variety of errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.
6. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
7. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the NHS has for future expenditure on the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore. [296583]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust continues to work on their outline business case for the redevelopment of the Stanmore site.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will extend his Department's free fruit and vegetable scheme to junior school children; and if he will make a statement. [295910]

Gillian Merron: There are no plans to extend the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme to junior school children.

Swine Flu

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* advice his Department plans to issue to (i) GPs and (ii) pregnant women to assist each in making an informed decision on swine influenza vaccination in individual cases; and if he will make a statement. [297544]

Gillian Merron: On 2 November, the Department issued a comprehensive briefing to all general practitioners about the swine flu vaccination programme and pregnancy, which covers the evidence, risks and benefits of the vaccine for pregnant women. The document has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_107824

A patient focused leaflet is also planned to be issued shortly, which aims to assist pregnant women in making an informed decision about vaccination.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors he took into account when assessing the risks to pregnant women arising from *(a)* administration of the swine influenza vaccination and *(b)* contracting swine influenza; and if he will make a statement. [297545]

Gillian Merron: Two vaccines have been licensed by the European Medicines Authority for use in pregnant women in the United Kingdom. Licensing of vaccines, including influenza vaccines, is held to a very high standard of safety and the vaccines would not be licensed if they were considered unsafe.

In licensing the current swine flu vaccines for use in pregnancy, the European regulators gave careful consideration to the severe burden of illness caused by swine flu in pregnant women. Epidemiological evidence from North America, Australia and Europe shows that pregnant women are at increased risk of severe disease and influenza-related hospital admission. Figures from the United States have shown that pregnant women who have swine flu are four to five times more likely to be hospitalised than the general population.

The Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation reviewed the two licenced vaccines and recommended that pregnant women should be given Pandemrix. This vaccine appears to give adequate levels of antibodies after a single dose thereby conferring protection more rapidly than would be afforded by Celvapan, which requires a two-dose schedule given three weeks apart.

Urology: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the NHS has to improve urology services at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [296649]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Improving specific services is a matter for local determination. It is the role of primary care trusts to ensure they commission services to meet the needs of their local population.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

2010 World Cup

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to provide travel advice to British nationals ahead of the 2010 World Cup finals; and if he will make a statement. [295023]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is working with a wide range of organisations to provide travel advice for British fans through our Know Before You Go campaign and its associated partners, the Travel Advice service, and our High Commission in South Africa. Our official travel safety campaign will be launched just before the 4 December World Cup draw. The campaign will regularly reinforce important safety messages in the run up to the World Cup using a variety of communication methods. We already provide advice and tips through the website:

www.fco.gov.uk/worldcup

which will be regularly updated.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government are giving to the Government of Afghanistan on negotiating trans-national contracts for the supply of raw materials. [297328]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK does not provide specific assistance to the Government of Afghanistan on the negotiation of trans-national contracts for the supply of raw materials. The World Bank is the main provider of such assistance in Kabul. The UK does however continue to work with the Government of Afghanistan on wider cross-border trade issues, including by supporting fora such as the Regional Economic Co-operation Conference.

Afghanistan: UK Trade and Investment

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the establishment of a UK Trade and Investment representation in Afghanistan. [297329]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Building up the basics of the licit private sector economy is vital before we can expect substantial UK investment in Afghanistan, therefore there have not yet been substantive discussions at ministerial level on this issue. At present, UK Trade and Investment has no presence in Afghanistan and does not proactively support UK companies in this market. However, UK officials liaise periodically with our embassy in Kabul and lobbying on behalf of British companies may be carried out on a case-by-case basis by the embassy.

The UK's economic development efforts in Afghanistan are focused on stimulating economic growth and job creation through private sector and agricultural development, as well as building the capacity of the economic Ministries. The UK (through the Department for International Development) contributes £30 million to Harakat, an investment facility working to encourage private sector investment. The Department for International Development is also investing in the Supporting Employment and Enterprise Development programme, which will create a fund to help Afghan businesses develop innovative ideas, fund skills development, as well as supporting the Microfinance Investment and Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) which has extended micro-credit and savings facilities to over 440,000 Afghans.

Brazil

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Brazil. [297481]

Chris Bryant: Brazil is an emerging global power: economically and politically. The Government's overriding objective is to be Brazil's partner of choice as Brazil takes its proper place as a global player in foreign, security and development spheres.

In particular, it is the Government's aim to assist Brazil in using its upcoming elected term on the UN Security Council from January 2010 in a way which will bolster its claim to be a permanent member of the Security Council as part of a reformed UN. The UK also seeks a greater role for Brazil in the weapons of mass destruction and disarmament agenda. As a long-standing declared non-nuclear power, Brazil is important in persuading Iran to co-operate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The UK would also like Brazil to sign the Additional Protocol of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to make full inspections of nuclear facilities the international norm.

The UK continues to work closely with Brazil in the security sphere. In particular, the UK is keen to help Brazil capitalise on its experience in leading the UN Mission to Haiti (MINUSTAH) so as to increase its capacity to play a greater role in security operations in conflict zones elsewhere, including Africa.

The UK has also been working closely with Brazil to help make the case for reform of the international architecture to meet modern demands: not least the World Bank, G20, the UN and International Monetary Fund. It is our hope that Brazil will use its influence within others, such as the G77 and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to persuade other countries of the case.

On climate change, the UK works closely with Brazil on climate change—as a country with a relatively clean energy matrix and with a strong commitment to addressing deforestation. The UK sees Brazil as a key partner in helping to achieve a deal in Copenhagen.

The UK also seeks a more active role for Brazil in development, particularly in Africa, with which Brazil has traditional links and where Brazil's techniques on social protection are helpful.

The UK is looking to develop a stronger bilateral trade and commercial relationship with Brazil, including increased trade and investment which maximises opportunities for both countries. On multilateral trade, Brazil and the UK share the view that a Doha Development deal should be both market opening and pro-development. Both countries have a shared vision about the role that trade can and should play in enhancing opportunities for economic development.

Rio de Janeiro has recently been successful in its bid to host the 2016 Olympics. As London will be the host for the 2012 Olympics, this is an excellent opportunity for Brazil and UK to work closely together to maximise all the opportunities across a wide range of policy areas and a broad spectrum of mutual interests.

British Overseas Territories: Carbon Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether records are kept of the levels of carbon dioxide emissions produced by the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean. [293310]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for environmental issues, including for maintaining records of carbon dioxide emissions, has been devolved to the overseas territories.

British Overseas Territories: Databases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the age is of the youngest person whose personal records are held on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System. [293306]

Chris Bryant: The youngest person whose personal record (name, date of birth, sex, home address and passport number) is held on the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System is aged nine.

The data on the system are highly protected and are not accessible by local IT network systems. All data stored on the system are protected under the UK Data Protection Act, and in accordance with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights.

British Overseas Territories: Gross Domestic Product

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the gross domestic product per capita was for the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean in each of the last five years. [293309]

Chris Bryant: The accuracy of gross domestic product (GDP) per head calculations in the Overseas Territories varies, and data are not always available for every year. It is not unusual for estimates to be revised after they have been published. This is compounded by the variable populations of the Overseas Territories—a small change in population can have a bigger effect on GDP per capita.

GDP statistics are available on the following territory websites:

Cayman Islands: http://www.gov.ky/

Anguilla: http://gov.ai/

Turks and Caicos Islands: http://www.turksandcaicos.tc/government/

Bermuda: http://www.gov.bm/

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Montserrat have not published these statistics on their Government websites. Their best estimates of GDP per capita for the five years until 2008 are below in current prices:

	BVI (US$)	*Montserrat (EC$)*
2004	31,460	20,203
2005	35,820	20,625
2006	37,970	22,803
2007	40,050	21,725
2008	38,820	22,564

British Overseas Territories: Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of households in *(a)* Montserrat, *(b)* the British Virgin Islands, *(c)* the Turks and Caicos Islands, *(d)* the Cayman Islands, *(e)* Bermuda and *(f)* Anguilla have access to high-speed broadband internet. [293300]

Chris Bryant: All of [illegible]ean overseas territories and Bermuda offer broa[illegible]d internet access to the population but its speed and use varies between territories.

British Overseas Territories: Renewable Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether solar photovoltaic systems have been installed on government buildings in the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean; and whether any other green technologies have been trialled. [293307]

Chris Bryant: The installation of solar photovoltaic systems in the Caribbean Overseas Territories is a matter for Overseas Territory governments.

British Overseas Territories: Telecommunications

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are in place to improve the telecommunications infrastructure in the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean. [293301]

Chris Bryant: Such measures are the internal responsibility of each overseas territory government, and differ widely in each case.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are in place to improve the telecommunications infrastructure in the UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic. [293302]

Chris Bryant: The Governments of the South Atlantic British Overseas Territories are committed to working to improve their telecommunications services to meet the needs of their communities' social and economic needs. For example:

on the Falkland Islands, a system is being installed to offer internet connectivity to the dispersed population. Also, there are plans to introduce revised legislation, and more effective regulation;

on St. Helena, a consultant has been engaged to advise on negotiating and granting a new telecommunications licence in 2012. The St. Helena Government's aim is that the new licence will provide for improvements to the existing telecommunications infrastructure;

and on Tristan da Cunha, possible suppliers are being engaged on the feasibility of a new broadband wifi system to provide internet and telephony.

Colombia

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 67W, on Colombia: trade unions, what the cost was of his visit to Bogota. [297471]

Chris Bryant: The Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas travel by Ministers costing in excess of £500. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate. Copies of the list are placed in the Libraries of both Houses. A list of overseas visits undertaken by Ministers in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 will be published in due course. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which official in his Department is responsible for monitoring the compliance with human rights standards of those Colombian security forces which have received training or other assistance from the UK. [296718]

Chris Bryant: The monitoring of the human rights or other performance of individual Colombian military personnel is the responsibility of the Colombian armed forces.

Our embassy in Bogota keeps a record of Colombian security force personnel who receive UK training, whether in counter-narcotics, human rights or humanitarian demining, in case information emerged to suggest that they subsequently become involved in human rights abuses. No such information has emerged to date.

Disclosing the details of the record held by our Embassy could endanger the lives of those involved.

Colombia: Drugs

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on counter-narcotics assistance in Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [297478]

Chris Bryant: We do not disclose the value of our counter-narcotics assistance to Colombia. To do so would put British and Colombian lives at risk. This decision has been upheld by the parliamentary ombudsman.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to seek to encourage MONUC and the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to ensure that Operation Kimia 2 does not cause harm to civilians in eastern DRC; and if he will make a statement. [294736]

Chris Bryant: The UK continues to support civilian protection as the UN mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUC)'s highest priority under UN Security Council Resolution 1856, and will do so for its new mandate. MONUC forces have performed well in very difficult circumstances. The UK is working closely with the UN to address the security situation in the areas most vulnerable to violence.

MONUC's response in this area includes deployment of joint civilian-military protection teams, where civilian staff specialising in different areas (human rights, child protection, civilian affairs etc) go out into the field with MONUC military and undertake a range of liaison activities with the local population to better understand their protection needs. MONUC has developed a conditionality policy as a means of withdrawing support from Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) units implicated in serious human rights abuses.

We also continue to urge DRC government of the need to respect International Humanitarian Law and not force Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to return. IDPs and refugee returns is a key strand of the DRC government Stabilisation and Reconstruction Plan and the Humanitarian Action Plan. We will keep working with the DRC government to implement these plans in co-ordination with humanitarian partners.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on first-class rail travel by its officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293208]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office spend on first-class travel within the UK was as follows:

Financial year	£
2007-08[1]	10,537.25
2008-09	49,700.00
2009-10[2]	13,225.40

[1] January to March. [2] Up to September.

The Hogg Robinson Group took over the travel contract in December 2007 and figures prior to this date are not available.

UK Staff on duty travel are only entitled to first-class rail travel when the journey time is over two hours, all other journeys must be made in standard class.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to seek to ensure progress in proceedings relating to Radovan Karadzic in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. [296809]

Chris Bryant: The Government welcomed the arrest last year of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. The UK has provided co-operation to the International

Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to ensure that his trial was able to commence on 26 October. The handling of proceedings against Dr Karadzic is an independent judicial matter for the court.

Iran: EU Action

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on diplomatic action against Iran following the sentencing of Hossein Rassam. [297573]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary briefed EU partners in confidence at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 26 October 2009 after receiving initial news of the sentence handed down to Hossein Rassam.

Once the sentence was confirmed, the EU presidency issued a statement on 29 October 2009 condemning the sentence and making clear that action against one EU member state was an action against all.

EU partners also took co-ordinated action in summoning Iranian ambassadors in capitals to underline their concerns about this case, and the European Council expressed its continuing concern about the situation of staff members of European Union Missions and European citizens in Iran who have recently been on trial, and called for their prompt and unconditional release.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his oral answers to the hon. Members for Islington North and Lewes of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 757 and 773, what steps he is taking to persuade Israel to *(a)* abandon its nuclear capability and *(b)* sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. [295576]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are clear in our call, both privately and publicly, on Israel to accede to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state. We also call on Israel to ratify the comprehensive test ban treaty.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Permanent Under Secretary, Peter Ricketts, emphasised our commitment to a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction in meetings during his visit to Israel earlier this month.

We continue to believe that a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, delivering a viable Palestinian State alongside a secure Israel, is a critical part of achieving peace and security in the region.

Middle East: Overseas Aid

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of funding provided by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the EU which has contributed to the Palestinian economy in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [296651]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The UK contributes to the Palestinian economy through budget support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and support to the development of the private sector.

Since March 2008, the UK Government have provided £53.5 million in budget support to the PA through the World Bank Trust Fund. The European Commission also provided £281 million to the Palestinian Authority (PA) through its PEGASE mechanism in 2008. The funding provided through the World Bank Trust Fund and PEGASE has enabled the PA to stabilise its finances and catch up with arrears of salary payments. This has helped stabilise the economy, reduce household debt and improve investor confidence.

In May 2008 we set up the £3.3 million Facility for New Market Development to enable Palestinian businesses to develop new products and research new markets for their goods. This project has helped over 180 companies in both the West Bank and Gaza. The UK has also funded two conferences to encourage investment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These have resulted in the construction of a £25 million hotel development in Ramallah, the establishment of the Palestine British Business Council, and training courses for Palestinian IT professionals in Ramallah by Google.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East; and what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Palestinian and *(b)* Israeli authorities on that matter. [296501]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* From my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister down, we work closely with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities, and our international partners, to promote efforts towards a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Most recently, the Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu on 15 October, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Defence Minister Barak on 13 October and to Prime Minister Fayyad on 28 October.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK is giving to the Palestinian Authority to improve its policing and security systems; and if he will make a statement. [296623]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK provides considerable support for security sector reform in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Since March 2008, we have been funding a £1.16 million project to provide the Palestinian civilian police with information technology and communications equipment, and to help fund their criminal investigation training.

We also support the work of the US Security Co-ordinator General Dayton. This includes advice to the Palestinian Ministry of the Interior, and support to a Senior Leadership Course which trains future leaders of the Palestinian security sector.

A strong and reformed Palestinian security sector is central to the peace process and the establishment of a successful Palestinian state. The reforms undertaken by the Palestinian Authority have helped improve Israeli and US confidence in the capability of the Palestinian security forces, and delivered economic benefits for ordinary Palestinians. We will continue to work with the Palestinian Authority to build on these successes and further improve the security situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Middle East: USA

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations between the United States of America and Middle Eastern countries. [293312]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Relations between the US and countries in the middle east are primarily a matter for those concerned.

We welcome President Obama's speech in Cairo on 4 June and his determination to make progress towards peace in the region. This offers a real opportunity and we continue to work with the US and partners across the region to support progress towards this goal.

Northern Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request the Turkish Cypriot authorities to seek a reversal of the decision of their Higher Broadcasting Council to forbid the use of Turkish Cypriot dialect on television and radio in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [295162]

Chris Bryant: The Government are not aware of any decision to forbid the use of the Turkish Cypriot dialect in the north of Cyprus.

Overseas Aid: Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated to projects overseas to tackle domestic violence and sexual abuse in each year since 2001. [292777]

Chris Bryant: The Department for International Development leads on this issue globally and supports a range of initiatives aimed at tackling violence against women, including domestic violence, through its development assistance programmes. This has included work in Ghana and Sierra Leone supporting the implementation of new legislation on domestic violence; and in Nepal, providing technical assistance to the Prime Minister's Office on the national campaign to end gender-based violence.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has funded one related project on domestic violence overseas in the recent past. This was a three-year community policing project being run in Russia between 2006 and 2009 (at a cost of approximately £300,000) by the Global Opportunities Fund for Human Rights. The aim of the project was to train police officers on prevention of community and domestic violence, working with justices of the peace, non-governmental organisations and relevant municipal organisations, to reduce domestic violence.

The FCO's Human Rights and Democracy Strategic Programme Fund supports projects on equality, including tackling the structural and institutional roots of gender discrimination through effective implementation of international law, but it does not have dedicated funds for tackling domestic violence and sexual abuse overseas.

South America: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 July, *Official Report*, columns 108-9W, on Colombia: land mines, for what reason the Conflict Prevention Pool no longer funds projects in South America. [294787]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009 announced the Government's arrangement for conflict funding in 2009-10. We have increased the resources available for conflict activity in 2009-10; a significant symbol of the importance we attach to these issues. However, we face competing demands and we cannot fund all activity to the same level as in previous years. The funding for Latin America was withdrawn as the limited funds available were allocated to regions where the risk and impact of conflict is greatest, including south Asia and the middle east. The UK still undertakes significant work in Latin America on issues such as human rights and democracy, climate change and counter-narcotics. We continue to work alongside international partners, including the UN, on conflict issues.

Tibet: Human Rights

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* (i) monitor and (ii) witness the trial of the Tibetan film-maker Dhondup Wangchen who has been in detention in Tibet since March 2008 and *(b)* establish his medical condition. [296883]

Chris Bryant: We are aware of Dhondup Wangchen's case. We are concerned about his well-being following his continued detention pending a trial, and about the conditions of his detention. His case was raised at the EU/China Human Rights Dialogue in Prague on 14 May 2009, where his name was included on an individual case list. On this the EU side asked for clarification as to the whereabouts and the grounds of his detention, as well as for his release. Most recently, my hon. Friend, Ivan Lewis, Minister of State for the Middle East and the Far East, also raised this case during his trip to Lhasa and Beijing in September, reiterating our concerns for his safety and welfare. The Chinese response was to inform us of the nature of his arrest, that the relevant Chinese authority raised charges against him and that his case was under judicial proceedings. We will continue to raise this case at every appropriate opportunity.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek urgent clarification from the Chinese authorities on the whereabouts of Tibetans, Tenzin Phuntsok, Kangtsuk and Penkyi from Sakya county who each received a death sentence with a two-year reprieve in April 2009. [296884]

Chris Bryant: We have called on China to review urgently the cases of those who remain under sentence of death for their alleged involvement in last year's unrest. The fact that independent observers were not allowed at these trials, and that restrictions remain on access to Tibetan areas, means that we have been unable to verify that the human rights of the defendants were respected, or that the trials were free from political interference. This, together with reports we have received from non-governmental organisations, gives us cause for real concern. We have also raised our concerns through the European Union.

In the statement that I released on 23 October 2009 condemning the recent executions in Lhasa of two Tibetans (Mr. Lobsang Gyaltsen and Mr. Loyak), I made clear that while we respect China's right to bring those responsible for the violence in Tibet last year to justice, the UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances, and we have consistently raised our concerns about lack of due process.

I expressed my deep concern about all the death penalty cases during my visit to Tibet in September and urged the authorities not to carry out the death sentence. We will continue to monitor reports on these and other individual cases, and will request further information about a selection of cases of concern at the next round of the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue.

United Nations Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1516-17, on the UN Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, if he will delay the planned timetable for ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material until the relevant Select Committees of the House have had an opportunity to scrutinise the implications for United Kingdom nuclear policy of the amendments contained in Cm 7685. [296518]

Chris Bryant: The Department for Energy and Climate Change, which holds the Government policy lead on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, has confirmed that it has not received a request from a Select Committee to extend the 21 sitting day period, therefore the time period for scrutiny will end on 4 November 2009.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies Enterprise Trust: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1930-31W, on the Academies Enterprise Trust, what funding was provided by each academy to the Academies Enterprise Trust in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [296987]

Mr. Coaker: We do not hold information on any funding provided by academies to the Academies Enterprise Trust.

Academies: Sponsorship

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it a requirement for organisations in charge of academies to publish annual financial accounts, including details of salaries; and if he will make a statement. [296986]

Mr. Coaker: All academy trusts (which includes charitable trusts running more than one academy) are required to publish annual accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Charity Commission has published a Statement of Recommended Practice which clarifies how charities should prepare their accounts in order to reflect these legal requirements. The Statement of Recommended Practice states that charities which are subject to a statutory audit (this includes academy trusts) should include a note in their accounts disclosing the number of employees whose emoluments were £60,000 or above, presented in £10,000 bandings. The Department expects academy trusts to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice.

Anti-Semitism

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many meetings of the cross-departmental working group on tackling anti-Semitism his Department's official responsible for pupil safety and school responsibility has attended. [295894]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There have been 10 meetings of the Inter-Departmental Working Group to Tackle Anti-Semitism since June 2007, of which seven have been attended by officials from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Officials advising on security in maintained schools have not attended but have briefed the secretariat directly or through their colleagues. A security official is expected to attend the next meeting. During the last two years DCSF Ministers have directly discussed concerns about security in Jewish schools on several occasions with, among others, representatives of the Community Security Trust and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Relevant decisions have taken such concerns into account.

Children in Care

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of prisoners were taken into care by social services in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [295205]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not held centrally by the Department.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what date local authorities are expected to have completed shielding arrangements in respect of ContactPoint. [297332]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: All local authorities confirmed completion of the initial shielding phase of ContactPoint in May. However, the shielding of individual records is an ongoing activity. Additionally, local authorities will carry out regular (six-monthly) reviews of shielded records to ensure that the retention of the shield is still appropriate.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects his Department to spend on the Graduate Leader Fund in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [296948]

Dawn Primarolo: The total amount for the Graduate Leader Fund, available over three years between 2008 and 2011, is £305 million. This is made up of £232 million for settings, routed via local authorities, and £73 million for the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to deliver Early Years Professional Status training and accreditation. Of the £305 million, the Department allocated £99 million in 2009-10 and currently plans to allocate £129 million in 2010-11. These allocations are included within the wider main revenue block of the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant, which is ring-fenced to be spent on supporting the delivery of the Government's Ten Year Strategy for Childcare and the local authority duties set out in the Childcare Act 2006.

Local authorities have the discretion to decide how much is spent on each area of activity, such as the Graduate Leader Fund, in line with local priorities, providing it contributes to the early years experience of children in their area.

Children's Centres: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 204W, on children's centres: Hertfordshire, how many proposed centres planned to open by that date were not operational on that date. [296808]

Dawn Primarolo: At the end of September 2009 Hertfordshire local authority had a total of 55 designated Sure Start Children's Centres, with a further 27 planned to be designated by March 2010, in order to provide universal coverage of children's centre services for children under five and their families. Of the 55 designated centres, seven are located in Hemel Hempstead and six in Dacorum. All centres due for designation were designated and have been in operation since September 2009 as planned.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to his Department; [296048]

(2) which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings; [296051]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department. [296061]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Responsibility for the Department's value for money (VfM) remit has been assigned to me. This will include oversight of our CSR07 Efficiency programme and the additional Operational Efficiency programme (OEP) efficiencies agreed at Budget 2009. The Department has not provided specific training, but she receives regular briefing on progress.

Both of these programmes are managed by a value for money team who co-ordinate activity across the Department, throughout its NDPBs and within the sectors in which they operate.

Progress towards targets set for the CSR07 Efficiency programme and the additional Operational Efficiency programme (OEP) will be stated in the 2009 autumn performance report in December 2009.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295730]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: All of the DCSF telephone helplines on which we hold information centrally were contracted through COI (Central Office of Information).

All DCSF helplines run through the COI Framework have one or more of the following accreditations: Contact Centre Association (CCA), COPC (Customer Operations Performance Centre) and/or Customer Excellence. It is also mandatory for them to either have or be planning to attain (in the next 12 months) the standards ISO9001 (quality management) and the ISO27001 (information security).

There are no plans to use the Helpline Association's quality standard.

Digital Communications Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on its Digital Communications Unit in each year since its inception; how many people are employed by the unit; and what the unit's functions are. [295508]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Digital Communications Unit was created in 2008. The programme budget in the year 2008-2009 was £12.5 million and in 2009-10 planned expenditure of £10.8 million.

The number of full-time equivalent members of staff engaged in the Digital Communications Unit is currently 15 with no vacant posts, employed at a cost of £713,387 for 2008-09, with planned expenditure for 2009-10 being £705,553 The remit of the unit covers all online services from the Department including elements of Direct Gov, Teachers TV and essential email communications and phone line support services to local authorities, Regional Government Offices and to all schools.

Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1408-9W, on education: finance, how much of the allocation to Making Good Progress will be spent on the single level tests; and if he will make a statement. [296264]

Mr. Coaker: The Department has allocated a total of £5.22 million to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency during the financial year 2009-10 to develop and administer single level tests (SLTs). This covers funding for SLTs as part of the Making Good Progress pilot, which ran until July 2009, and for the extended SLT pilot, announced in the Department's response to the Expert Group on Assessment's report. Funding has not been confirmed yet for the financial year 2010-11.

In addition the Department is allocating in 2009-10 a participation allowance to schools participating in the extended SLT pilot of £2 per pupil to support participation in evaluation activity. £0.4 million has been allocated in this financial year for the independent evaluation of the MGP pilot (which includes SLTs) and of the extended SLT pilot.

Family Courts: Guardians

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of supply of guardians in the family courts; and if he will make a statement. [296305]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is aware of issues regarding the adequacy of supply of guardians in the family courts, and my officials are working with CAFCASS to address delays in allocating cases to guardians.

A sharp rise in the number of care applications since December 2008 has put pressure on the family justice system in general, and the supply of guardians in particular. As of 30 September 2009, CAFCASS had a work load of 13,355 public law cases, 979 of which were awaiting allocation to a guardian.

A number of steps have been taken to reduce the number of unallocated cases. This Department recently provided £1.6 million of additional funding to CAFCASS in this financial year to tackle the backlog in the London area. CAFCASS itself has developed operating priorities to enable guardians to manage their work load as efficiently and effectively as possible. The President of the Family Division has also issued interim guidance, to operate until March 2010, which aims to reduce the number of cases without guardians in the family courts.

Free School Meals: Eligibility

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to extend the provision of free school meals to families on working tax credit; and if he will make a statement. [296459]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We have no plans to extend free school meals to families on working tax credit.

However, we are currently running a two-year pilot in three local authorities in deprived areas to test different approaches to free school meals. Wolverhampton is extending the free school meal eligibility rules to include pupils whose parents receive working tax credit and have an annual income of up to £16,040. Durham and Newham are piloting free school lunches to all primary pupils. We want to learn the lessons of those pilots before making decisions on any national extension.

GCE A-Level: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average total point score was achieved by pupils taking A-level or equivalent qualifications in each school in Tamworth constituency in each of the last 10 years. [296095]

Mr. Coaker: The information can be found in the Achievement and Attainment Tables found in the House of Commons Library and published on the following website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year are not available until early January 2010.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Month

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has given to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller month. [296097]

Mr. Coaker: Since its inception in 2008, the Department has contributed £195,000 towards the costs associated with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month in June 2008 and 2009. The funding has been used to stage events around the country to raise awareness, celebrate and explore the history, culture and language of these communities, and to produce materials and resources for use in schools and local authorities. The month gives an opportunity to correct the myths, tackle the prejudice and offer a balanced view of issues facing the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

We have also established a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Education Stakeholder Group, comprising representatives from all three communities. The group, in addition to offering advice, will actively engage in raising awareness and helping to change attitudes and behaviours, as well as supporting our work to improve levels of ascription, attendance, transition and attainment to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils.

Home Education

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost under each budgetary heading of implementing each of the recommendations of the Badman Review of elective home education in England. [293619]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We estimate, subject to discussion with the Local Government Association, that the overall additional costs for implementing the registration and monitoring elements of the Badman Review recommendations will be £21.65 million in the first year with additional ongoing annual costs of £9.78 million.

We estimate that an additional support package for home educated children will cost a further £21 million in the first year rising to £22 million in subsequent years. This is based on an estimated cohort of 25,000 home educated children who all seek additional support. We know that this estimate may be too low and we will adjust our funding commitments as local authorities get more clarity over the numbers of home educated children and the services they may seek.

The 28 recommendations are wide ranging but the financial costs fall into the following broad categories:

Estimated cost

£

	First Year	*Ongoing*
Registration and deregistering from schools	14,000,000	2,580,000
Monitoring	7,000,000	7,000,000
Training	150,000	200,000
Evaluation	500,000	
Support package	21,000,000	22,000,000
Total	42,650,000	31,780,000

Parents: Training

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents have attended a parenting course for separated parents under the provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006; and what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of such courses since December 2008. [278862]

Dawn Primarolo: As at the end June 2009, from national data collected by CAFCASS, 21 people had attended a parenting programme under the provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006. It is too early to make any assessment of the effectiveness of this programme.

Pre-School Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects all two to five-year-olds to have access to the pre-school entitlement of 15 hours per week; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Dawn Primarolo: From September 2010 every three and four-year-old will be eligible to receive 15 hours free early learning per week for 38 weeks of the year. Most local authorities are already delivering the new 15-hour offer to their 25 per cent. most disadvantaged children from September 2009.

We are committed to rolling out a free entitlement to two-year-olds, stage by stage. The most disadvantaged two-year-olds in every local authority can already access a free place of at least 10 hours a week, 38 weeks per year. The Prime Minister recently announced that we will extend the two-year-old places to 250,000 children by end of the next Parliament. This is an increase of over 10-fold. Any future extension to the offer will be considered when practicable.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 892W, on pre-school education: finance, how much of the £363 million unspent by his Department on early years capital programmes in the financial year 2008-09 had been intended for the Quality and Access Early Years capital grant. [291461]

Dawn Primarolo: Childcare, Quality and Access capital forms part of the main capital block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare grant (together with funding for children's centres and, in 2008-09, workplace nurseries). The constituent parts of the block are not individually ring-fenced, allowing local authorities the freedom to spend the grant flexibly to best meet their local objectives.

The Department does not require local authorities to disaggregate their funding until they submit an audited annual financial statement detailing how much they spent on each funding strand. For 2008-09 those statements are not due before the end of October 2009.

The Department's accounts at year end need to be finalised before the audited returns are due from local authorities. Therefore the underspend for Early Years' capital is estimated based on the amounts claimed in year and the trend in historic spend rates. The Department will be in a position to confirm those estimates and disaggregate expenditure on Childcare, Quality and Access once audited accounts are received.

Primary Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in primary schools linked to phase one Sure Start centres achieved the national standard in each of their key stage 1 assessments in the last 12 months. [289321]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not collect data on the percentage of children in primary schools linked to phase one Sure Start children's centres who achieved the national standard in each of their key stage 1 assessments, and to collect this information would involve disproportionate cost. The overall Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) results were published in a Statistical First Release on 14 October 2009.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attended *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four, *(d)* five and *(e)* 10 primary schools in the last year for which figures are available. [295510]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for what average length of time a permanently excluded pupil missed school through fixed-period exclusion before the permanent exclusion took effect in each year for which figures are available; [296261]

(2) on how many occasions on average a permanently excluded pupil was given a fixed-period exclusion before permanent exclusion in each year for which figures are available. [296262]

Mr. Coaker: The available information for 2006/07 and 2007/08 is shown in the table.

The table shows the average number of days that pupils spent out of their school following one or more fixed period exclusions prior to receiving a permanent exclusion from the same school. This does not imply that they missed education over the whole of this period, since the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which came into effect in September 2007, requires schools to provide full-time suitable education from the sixth day of any period of fixed period exclusion of six days or more.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2] [3] average number and length of fixed period exclusion prior to permanent exclusion[4] [5] England, 2007/08

	2006/07	2007/08
Average number of fixed period exclusions received prior to permanent exclusion[4]	2.3	2.2
Average number of days of fixed period exclusion prior to permanent exclusion[5]	10.8	7.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] The number of instances of fixed period exclusion of pupil enrolments who were subsequently permanently excluded by the same school, divided by the total number of pupil enrolments who were permanently excluded during the year. Figures are as reported by schools.

[5] The total number of days of fixed period exclusion of pupil enrolments who were subsequently permanently excluded by the same school, divided by the total number of pupil enrolments who were permanently excluded during the year. Figures are as reported by schools.

Source:
School Census

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 997-8W, on pupil referral units, what the equivalent figures are for each local authority area. [294152]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

In my response to Parliamentary Question 282023 of 9 July 2009, I indicated that 130 pupil referral units are recorded as having closed between 1 June 2004 and 31 May 2009. Of these, 54 were never inspected by Ofsted and 37 had received no more than one inspection. Eight of these 37 were placed in special measures at that inspection. Table A shows the Local Authority of the 54 pupil referral units which were not inspected by Ofsted; and Table B shows the Local Authority of the 37 pupil referral units which received no more than one inspection, indicating where that inspection resulted in the unit being placed in special measures.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Number of pupil referral units in each local authority which closed during the last 5 years and had never been inspected by Ofsted

Local authority	*Number of pupil referral units*
Bolton	7
Brent	3
Bristol City of	1
Bromley	1
Cambridgeshire	1
Coventry	1
Doncaster	1
Enfield	1
Essex	2
Havering	2
Hillingdon	1
Hounslow	2
Knowsley	1
Lambeth	1
Lancashire	1
Leicester	1
Leicestershire	2
Lewisham	1
Manchester	1
Medway	1
Northamptonshire	1
Reading	5
Rotherham	1
Salford	1
Somerset	3
Southwark	1
Telford and Wrekin	1
Thurrock	1
Trafford	1
Waltham Forest	3
West Berkshire	3
Wokingham	1
Total	54

Table B: Number of pupil referral units which closed during the last 5 years and were inspected no more than once, and of these, which were placed in to special measures at that inspection.

Local authority	*Number of pupil referral units inspected no more than once*	*Of these: number of pupil referral units placed in special measures at that inspection*
Barnsley	1	0
Bolton	1	0
Brent	1	0
Camden	1	0
Cornwall	2	1
Coventry	1	0
Essex	2	0
Gloucestershire	1	0
Hampshire	1	0
Islington	1	1
Lambeth	1	0
Lancashire	1	1
Leeds	1	0
Leicester	1	0

Table B: Number of pupil referral units which closed during the last 5 years and were inspected no more than once, and of these, which were placed in to special measures at that inspection

Local authority	*Number of pupil referral units inspected no more than once*	*Of these: number of pupil referral units placed in special measures at that inspection*
Lewisham	1	0
Liverpool	1	1
Milton Keynes	1	1
North East Lincolnshire	1	1
North Tyneside	1	0
Northamptonshire	1	0
Nottinghamshire	1	0
Portsmouth	1	0
Rotherham	1	0
Salford	1	0
Somerset	3	0
Southwark	1	1
Stockton-on-Tees	1	0
Stoke-on-Trent	1	1
Telford and Wrekin	1	0
West Berkshire	2	0
Wigan	2	0
Total	37	8

Pupils: Immigrants

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* evaluated on the educational achievement of children of (i) Bangladeshi and (ii) Pakistani origin in the last five years. [296939]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the last five years this Department has *(a)* undertaken two pieces of internal analysis entitled "2006—Ethnicity and Education: The Evidence on Minority Ethnic Pupils aged five–16" and "2007—Ethnicity and Degree Attainment"; and, *(b)* commissioned two pieces of research entitled "2004—Inclusion and Pupil Achievement" and "2009—Drivers and Challenges to raising the achievement of pupils from Bangladeshi, Somali and Turkish backgrounds", all of which have included the educational achievement of Bangladeshi and Pakistani children.

Reading: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proposals his Department has to encourage Nottingham city council to take up the Every Child a Reader scheme; and if he will make a statement. [296762]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Nottingham city council has been part of the Every Child a Reader programme since 2008-09. Key Stage 1 results for reading are still below the national average of 84 per cent., and now 78 per cent. of children achieve at least level 2. Nottingham city council employs seven Reading Recovery Teachers, with another four being trained this year, and they have a share of the Teacher Leader employed by their consortium of three local authorities.

Schools: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what ways the additional funding allocated to schools for 2009-2012 will be used. [296395]

Mr. Coaker: The dedicated schools grant, which provides core funding for schools, increased by an average 3.7 per cent. in 2009-10 and will increase by an average 4.3 per cent. in 2010-11. All schools will get a minimum guaranteed increase of 2.1 per cent. per pupil per year to cover cost pressures such as increases in teachers' pay. In addition there is significant headroom in the settlement to pay for ministerial priorities such as more personalised learning to help raise standards and narrow the gaps in achievement, but it is up to schools to decide how best they can use this funding to support children's outcomes.

Schools: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on refurbishment of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Chorley and (ii) Lancashire in each year since 1997. [296751]

Mr. Coaker: School capital funding is allocated on a local authority basis and prioritised locally. Accordingly, central records are not maintained on a constituency basis, nor on the split of expenditure between primary and secondary schools. Refurbishment consists both of capital improvement and revenue repair. Because of this, the capital allocations listed in the table will have been supplemented by the use of revenue funding prioritised locally. In addition, Lancashire may have had other capital receipts which it put towards refurbishment.

The following table sets out Lancashire school capital allocations from 1996-97 to 2009-10.

	£ million
1996-97	12.9
1997-98	13.3
1998-99	19.5
1999-2000	36.8
2000-01	42.2
2001-02	40.6
2002-03	63.7
2003-04	72.7
2004-05	60.6
2005-06	133.0
2006-07	150.5
2007-08	182.5
2008-09	62.4
2009-10	132.2

The large allocations from 2005-06 to 2009-10, excepting 2008-09, include a total allocation of £332 million in respect of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Schools: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital funding was allocated to schools in Norwich, North constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [296344]

Mr. Coaker: School capital funding is allocated on a local authority basis and prioritised locally. Accordingly, central records are not maintained on a constituency basis. Allocations to Norfolk in the financial year 1997-98 are £4.9 million, in 2007-08 £55.9 million, and in 2008-09 £42.3 million.

The high figure of £55.9 million in 2007-08 includes an allocation of £5.3 million for successful and popular schools, and £9.9 million for basic need expansion.

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average teacher-pupil ratio is for each school in Norwich, North constituency. [296345]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the within school pupil to teacher ratios (PTR) in state funded schools in Norwich, North constituency, January 2009.

Within school pupil teacher ratios[1] in state funded schools. Years: January 2009. Coverage: Norwich, North constituency

LA estab. number	*School name*	*PTR*
Primary		
9262146	Sprowston Junior School	23.1
9262147	Sprowston Infant School	20.8
9262160	Hillside Avenue Primary School, Thorpe	23.7
9262161	St. William's Primary School	24.0
9262247	Firside Junior School	24.8
9262251	Cecil Gowing Infant School	22.6
9262266	Falcon Junior School	19.1
9262267	White Woman Lane Junior School	20.0
9262271	Heather Avenue Infant School	19.6
9262283	Nightingale Infant School	23.8
9262299	Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School	19.3
9262303	George White Junior School	14.8
9262308	Mousehold Infant and Nursery School	20.6
9262312	Angel Road Junior School	20.9
9262320	Angel Road Infant School	30.2
9262361	Kinsale Infant School	24.1
9262362	Kinsale Junior School	19.3
9262364	Lodge Lane Infant School	20.8
9262382	Sparhawk Infant School and Nursery	19.8
9262384	Garrick Green Infant School	28.2
9262395	Ghost Hill Infant and Nursery School	20.0
9262424	Drayton Community Infant School	26.6
9263060	Old Catton CofE VC Junior School	19.1
9263085	Taverham Junior School	20.5
9263152	Drayton CofE Junior School	26.7
9263423	Heartsease Primary School	18.9
9263424	Mile Cross Primary School	19.6
9263425	Catton Grove Primary School	18.0
9263430	Dussindale Primary School	19.4
Secondary		
9264005	Hellesdon High School	17.9
9264043	Sprowston Community High School	17.8
9264070	Sewell Park College	17.7
9264083	Thorpe St. Andrew School	16.6
9264084	Taverham High School	18.8
Special		
9267006	Hall School	9.4
Academy		
9266905	The Open Academy	13.0

[1] The within school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.
For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department of the School Improvement and Targets Unit was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [296950]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1560lW.

Schools: Vetting

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to issue guidance on Independent Safeguarding Authority vetting arrangements in relation to parental visits to schools. [297221]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* Parental visits to schools, to meet teachers or to watch a school play or sports match, are not covered by the new Vetting and Barring scheme. This is made clear in the interim guidance on the scheme that was published on 12 October 2009, copies of which are in the House Libraries and which can be found on the ISA website at this address:

www.isa-gov.org.uk/default.aspx?page=402

This point will also be clearly highlighted in the guidance relating to registration with the scheme, which will be published in due course.

Special Educational Needs: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated to special needs provision in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* each county in the north-west in each year since 1997. [296752]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The available information on how much funding has been allocated to special needs provision in each local authority in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* the East of England in each county in the north-west in each year since 1997 is contained within the following table. Data are not available prior to 2000-01.

Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England since 2000-01

£

Local authority name	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England	2,763,226,000	2,908,380,000	3,038,661,000	3,466,180,000	3,774,757,000	4,120,549,000	4,481,245,000	4,863,604,000	5,094,462,000	5,188,355,000
North West GOR	399,633,000	413,714,000	436,147,000	490,648,000	517,610,000	569,474,000	621,745,000	665,716,000	693,192,000	707,805,000
Blackburn and Darwen	13,775,000	13,667,000	14,392,000	16,207,000	17,320,000	19,210,000	20,652,000	23,552,000	17,180,000	17,716,000
Blackpool	10,260,000	10,533,000	9,985,000	12,895,000	12,827,000	13,556,000	14,241,000	15,020,000	16,326,000	16,852,000
Bolton	14,605,000	14,943,000	15,900,000	17,216,000	18,983,000	19,429,000	21,987,000	22,747,000	24,449,000	24,513,000
Bury	9,455,000	9,938,000	11,099,000	12,551,000	13,375,000	15,915,000	16,940,000	17,891,000	20,186,000	21,214,000
Cheshire (Pre-LGR)	31,671,000	33,787,000	36,732,000	43,613,000	47,962,000	58,423,000	65,851,000	69,129,000	74,423,000	—
Cheshire East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,936,000
Cheshire West and Chester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38,974,000
Cumbria	22,777,000	23,761,000	29,097,000	28,807,000	29,383,000	29,903,000	32,848,000	35,418,000	35,841,000	34,565,000
Halton	9,276,000	9,500,000	9,753,000	10,931,000	11,073,000	11,452,000	11,664,000	12,178,000	12,063,000	12,572,000
Knowsley	10,137,000	10,802,000	12,973,000	13,548,000	13,715,000	14,292,000	14,481,000	16,088,000	18,773,000	18,304,000
Lancashire	79,766,000	82,826,000	86,666,000	99,347,000	106,320,000	109,113,000	118,120,000	128,721,000	126,573,000	130,680,000
Liverpool	25,981,000	26,125,000	28,671,000	26,140,000	25,510,000	29,166,000	31,394,000	34,413,000	37,037,000	37,451,000
Manchester	24,053,000	26,238,000	28,448,000	35,869,000	33,912,000	38,646,000	54,584,000	58,501,000	62,021,000	67,042,000
Oldham	12,723,000	13,335,000	13,056,000	14,871,000	15,819,000	17,680,000	17,486,000	20,261,000	21,989,000	22,190,000
Rochdale	11,384,000	11,841,000	13,400,000	14,687,000	15,671,000	17,076,000	18,455,000	19,294,000	20,667,000	21,557,000
Salford	15,807,000	16,268,000	15,763,000	18,548,000	20,283,000	30,012,000	24,211,000	24,178,000	25,167,000	23,803,000
Sefton	15,161,000	14,700,000	15,122,000	16,495,000	17,523,000	18,539,000	20,391,000	20,786,000	20,740,000	20,513,000
St. Helens	8,987,000	9,277,000	9,477,000	11,612,000	12,156,000	12,037,000	13,067,000	13,775,000	14,470,000	14,488,000
Stockport	12,546,000	14,109,000	13,252,000	14,181,000	17,038,000	20,558,000	20,963,000	20,941,000	22,330,000	23,282,000
Tameside	11,394,000	11,734,000	10,584,000	12,381,000	13,271,000	14,151,000	14,978,000	17,793,000	17,125,000	17,637,000
Trafford	10,841,000	11,167,000	12,073,000	14,494,000	15,917,000	17,799,000	18,355,000	19,640,000	21,660,000	23,381,000
Warrington	9,340,000	9,803,000	10,150,000	11,357,000	12,315,000	13,275,000	15,056,000	16,477,000	19,412,000	19,872,000
Wigan	19,757,000	17,858,000	18,177,000	20,046,000	21,306,000	21,391,000	24,929,000	26,272,000	27,419,000	27,703,000
Wirral	19,936,000	21,501,000	21,377,000	24,853,000	25,931,000	27,849,000	31,093,000	32,642,000	37,343,000	36,561,000

Notes:

1. The data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DCSF.

2. Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter-authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.

3. The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN and, from 2004-05 onwards, "notional SEN" delegated to nursery schools was reported on section 52 for the first time (nursery schools "notional SEN" accounts for £7.8 million, £9.5 million, £10.4 million, £11.1 million and £11.7 million of the respective 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 England totals). In 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 local authorities in England also budgeted £499.6 million, £528.5 million, £554.9 million and £552.6 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the above table as figures are not available prior to 2005-06.

4. From 2009-10 figures no longer include LA functions in relation to child protection which was previously included within SEN section of budget Table 1. It is now included within Children and Young People's Safety section of the table.

5. Cheshire LA ceased to exist and became two new authorities (Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester) as part of the LGR on 1 April 2009.

6. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 28 October 2009.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils began studying for a diploma in September 2009. [295279]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures from local authorities will have been completed, returned and confirmed by the end of the year.

Specialised Diplomas: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to date has been of the diploma aggregation service; and how much is expected to be spent on the service in each of the next five years. [296516]

Mr. Coaker: The diploma aggregation service is designed and managed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority to enable the aggregation and awarding of diplomas. It became operational in September 2008. The total cost of the service during its initial development phase (April 2006 to 31 August 2008) was £18 million. Since then we have continued to invest in both enhancing and maintaining the service. In the subsequent period to the end of the current financial year (September 2008 to March 2010) the estimated additional cost of investment and maintenance is £6.4 million, with running costs in the following financial year estimated at £2.2 million. Later financial years will be considered as part of the next spending review process.

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to increase levels of educational opportunity for children from the most deprived households. [296519]

Mr. Coaker: Increasing levels of educational opportunity for disadvantaged children is a top priority for this Government. This is reflected in one of the Government's public service agreements which commits us to:

> narrowing achievement gaps at the Early Years Foundation Stage;
>
> narrowing the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at key stages 2 and 4;
>
> narrowing gaps in the proportion of pupils progressing by two levels in English and mathematics at the end of key stages 2, 3 and 4;
>
> increasing the numbers of Looked After Children reaching Level 4 in English at key stage 2 and reaching Level 4 in mathematics at key stage 2;
>
> increasing the numbers of Looked After Children achieving five or more good GCSEs at key stage 4; and
>
> narrowing the gap between full-time higher education initial participation rates for young people aged 18-20 from the top three and the bottom four socio-economic classes.

As part of our programme of work to deliver this PSA, we have introduced a range of initiatives designed to increase the level of educational opportunities for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, from their early years right though to early adulthood. For example, from this September we are extending free early learning opportunities to the most disadvantaged two-year-olds and their families and we are beginning to roll out one-to-one tuition on a national basis to pupils in key stages 2 and 3 who are falling behind.

Targeted programmes such as the Extra Mile pathfinder and the extended services pilot for disadvantaged children are raising the aspirations and attainment of individual pupils. Last December, we legislated to require local authorities to set targets for the attainment of all free school meals pupils, to help ensure that help and support are targeted where they are most needed. And the Aimhigher Programme is raising aspirations in 41 areas by providing summer schools, university visits and masterclasses to 14-19-year-olds from low income households, as well as to Looked After Children and disabled young people from all backgrounds.

All of this work is having an impact. The 2009 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results show that children living in the most disadvantaged areas are improving faster than their peers—the gap has narrowed from 16 per cent. last year to 15 per cent. this year. In schools too, while the performance of all pupils has improved substantially over the last decade, some of the fastest progress has been made by children eligible for free school meals. To give just one example, between 2002 and 2008, the percentage of free school meals pupils achieving the equivalent of five or more good GCSEs rose by 17 percentage points (from 23 per cent. to 40 per cent.), in comparison with a 13.3 percentage point rise for non-free school meals pupils.

Of course there is more to be done and in 'Breaking the Link between disadvantage and low attainment' and the Schools White Paper we set out a wide range of further plans. These include a proposal to include a measure of schools' progress in narrowing attainment gaps for their disadvantaged pupils in the new school report card, (on which we are currently consulting).

Teachers: Absenteeism

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to seek to reduce the level of absences due to stress amongst school staff. [296524]

Mr. Coaker: The Department recognises that there are a variety of factors that contribute to stress among teachers and the wider school workforce. Accordingly we have put in place a range of measures to address the causes.

Through our ongoing work with social partners, we are undertaking a significant programme of workforce reform to help address those causes associated with workload. The National Agreement on Raising Standards and Tackling Workload, which was signed in January 2003, led to guaranteed time for planning, preparation and assessment, limits on the amount of cover teachers could do, and a transfer of admin tasks to support staff, all of which help address the issue of workload. There have also been increases in the number of teachers and support staff working in schools. Since 1997, the number of support staff has more than doubled and teacher numbers have risen by over 40,000.

Encouraging better pupil behaviour and attendance also has a direct impact on reducing teacher stress. That is why we are investing in a comprehensive national programme to strengthen schools' capacity to manage pupil behaviour.

In addition we have encouraged better management of school workforce health matters through improved occupational health guidance for schools and local authorities, and we are working with employers to encourage early intervention to avoid ill health retirements. We have reinforced these moves through the release of guidance on common mental health problems which give practical advice on positive action to support teachers and the wider workforce through the stresses and strains that can arise through life and work.

Teachers: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants were working for Lancashire Education Authority (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [296835]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is published in tables 19 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)" published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27_Vals.xls

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many entrants for mathematics specialist initial teacher training there were in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2008; and what percentage of the Department's target for each year these figures represented. [296513]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is given in the table.

Initial teacher training: Recruitment and place numbers. Years: 2001/02 to 2008/09. Coverage: England

	2001/02	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Recruitment								
1. College based courses								
Primary and Secondary	29,190	31,280	33,930	34,520	33,700	32,650	31,350	31,270
Of which:								
Secondary	16,060	16,760	18,290	17,980	17,440	17,040	16,230	15,950
Of which:								
Specialising in Mathematics	1,550	1,670	1,940	2,030	1,920	2,000	1,970	2,040
2. College based courses and employment based routes								
Primary and Secondary	33,320	36,090	40,740	42,000	40,920	40,020	38,360	36,380
Of which:								
Secondary	18,580	19,870	22,590	22,720	21,970	21,710	20,800	19,260
Of which:								
Specialising in Mathematics	1,860	2,060	2,510	2,590	2,440	2,480	2,420	2,380
ITT places								
1. College based courses								
Primary and Secondary	29,890	31,790	34,675	35,800	34,300	32,800	31,300	n/a
Of which:								
Secondary	17,390	17,790	19,475	19,500	18,500	17,500	16,500	n/a
Of which:								
Specialising in Mathematics	1,940	1,940	2,315	2,350	2,350	2,350	2,350	n/a
2. College based courses and employment based routes								
Primary and Secondary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36,845
Of which:								
Secondary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,385
Of which:								
Specialising in Mathematics	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,735
Percentage of recruitment against place numbers								
1. College based courses								
Primary and Secondary	97.7	98.4	97.8	96.4	98.3	99.5	100.2	n/a
Of which:								
Secondary	92.3	94.2	93.9	92.2	94.3	97.4	98.4	n/a
Of which:								
Specialising in Mathematics	80.1	86.3	83.9	86.3	81.7	84.9	84.0	n/a
2. College based courses and employment based routes								
Primary and Secondary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	98.7
Of which:								
Secondary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	99.3

Initial teacher training: Recruitment and place numbers. Years: 2001/02 to 2008/09. Coverage: England

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
of which:								
Specialising in Mathematics	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	87.1

n/a = Not applicable

Notes:

1. Recruitment figures for 2008/09 are provisional and subject to change. College based recruitment for 2008/09 includes actual registrations and forecast trainees who are expected to enter ITT during the academic year. Employment based recruitment figures for 2008/09 were for the autumn term only. A further 1,900 trainees were expected to start on employment based routes during the year.
2. College based ITT recruitment includes Universities, other Higher Education Institutions, School Centred ITT (SCITT) and Open University.
3. Employment based ITT recruitment includes Teach First. The first year of the Teach First programme was 2003/04.
4. Recruitment numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Number of ITT places prior to 2008/09 include SCITT but exclude employment based ITT. Targets for 2008/09 onwards include employment based ITT.

Source:

TDA's ITT Trainee Numbers Census and TDA's Employment Based Database

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(d)* Twickenham constituency of individuals in each age group of each of the last five years. [294756]

Ian Lucas: The available information on the number of bankruptcies in England, London, Richmond-upon-Thames and Twickenham constituency, by age group, may be seen in tables la to 1d as follows.

Table 1a: Bankrupts by age, England

	Age group[1]						
	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Unknown
2004	2,415	8,423	9,417	5,581	3,055	874	2,418
2005	3,187	10,780	12,383	7,698	4,312	1,370	3,311
2006	3,646	14,208	16,949	10,662	6,116	2,084	3,828
2007	2,824	14,249	17,671	11,575	6,507	2,334	4,000
2008	2,659	14,595	18,716	12,822	6,649	2,388	4,059

Table 1b: Bankrupts by age, London

	Age group[1]						
	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Unknown
2004	166	860	1,141	674	342	112	555
2005	221	1,208	1,557	1,078	495	220	547
2006	214	1,448	2,204	1,427	725	281	472
2007	170	1,391	2,069	1,478	800	311	409
2008	128	1,292	2,033	1,562	761	297	424

Table 1c: Bankrupts by age, Richmond-upon-Thames

	Age group[1]						
	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Unknown
2004	4	15	23	14	16	4	5
2005	1	21	24	27	20	4	4
2006	2	21	46	31	22	7	9
2007	4	32	52	17	29	6	5
2008	0	14	32	38	14	3	6

Table 1d: Bankrupts by age, Twickenham constituency

	Age Group						
	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and Over	Unknown
2004	3	9	13	7	10	3	4
2005	0	12	11	15	10	1	3
2006	2	13	27	21	8	5	8
2007	2	25	38	8	18	1	0
2008	0	7	19	28	6	2	3

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 94.5 per cent. of cases in 2004 to 96.9 per cent. in 2008)

Broadband

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to upgrade broadband facilities in the UK. [297255]

Mr. Timms: We have recently set up the Network Design and Procurement Company as we pledged to do in the Digital Britain Report. The company will be responsible for procuring the upgrade and replacement works to deliver the Universal Service Commitment (USC) for 2 Mbps to virtually every community by 2012. In due course, it will also be responsible for the administration of the Next Generation Fund outlined in the Digital Britain White Paper, with a view to 90 per cent. of UK households having access to next generation broadband services by 2017.

On take-up of broadband and Digital Inclusion, the Government have also appointed Martha Lane Fox as our Digital Inclusion Champion. Her role will be to find ways of helping people without previous experience of computers to develop the skills needed to make use of the internet in order to take advantage of the benefits it offers.

Broadband: Finance

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of delivery of the universal service commitment of two megabits per second by 2012; and from which of his Department's budgets the funding for the commitment will be drawn. [297656]

Mr. Timms: The Government set out in the Digital Britain report that it would make available £200 million of public funds to support delivery of the universal service commitment of two megabits per second by 2012. This will be drawn from a combination of the underspend on the Digital Switchover Fund (from the TV licence fee) and the £750 million BIS Strategic Investment Fund announced in the budget to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of delivery of next generation broadband to at least 90 per cent. of homes and businesses by 2017; what proportion of that cost will be funded from the public purse; and what arrangements he plans to make for such funding. [297657]

Mr. Timms: The Broadband Stakeholder Group published a report in September 2008 on the cost of delivering next generation broadband nationwide. This put the cost of UK-wide fibre networks at between £5.1 billion and £28.8 billion depending on the technology used.

The Digital Britain Report indicated that around 60 per cent. of homes are likely to be served by next generation broadband purely through market provision. The Government have proposed a supplement of 50p per month on each fixed copper line in order to raise £150 million-£175 million a year. This will provide a fund earmarked for supporting delivery of next generation broadband to at least 90 per cent. of homes and businesses by 2017. The exact proportion of public and private investment in relation to those areas not served on a purely commercial basis by the market will be determined by a competitive process. We will bring forward for Parliament's approval legislation to deliver this fund in Spring 2010.

Business: UK Trade and Investment

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses with *(a)* fewer than 50, *(b)* between 51 and 100, *(c)* between 101 and 250 and *(d)* more than 250 employees received assistance from UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years. [294932]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* This information is publicly available in UKTI's Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey, available at

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/pims

This covers activity delivered from the period beginning 1 July 2005 through to the end December 2008. The reports include validated and de-duplicated total number of companies helped through UKTI trade services and a wide range of characteristics of those companies.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses received assistance from UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area. [295066]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) This information is publicly available in UKTI's Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey, available at

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/pims

This covers activity delivered from the period beginning 1 July 2005 through to the end December 2008. The reports include validated and de-duplicated total number of companies helped through UKTI trade services and a wide range of characteristics of those companies.

(b) UKTI does not hold this information.

Consolidated Contractors Corporation

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts Ministers and officials in his Department have had with the Consolidated Contractors Corporation (CCC Group) and its international offshoots in the last five years. [294377]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) officials based in both the British Consulate General in Jerusalem and UKTI's headquarters in London have been in regular contact with Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) over the past two years, owing to the company's involvement on both the UK and Palestinian Councils of the Palestine Britain Business Council (PBBC). The Business Council, which was established with the assistance of UKTI, seeks to promote and facilitate bilateral trade and investment between the UK and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Business Council was announced on the visit made to Israel in July 2008 by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister; and launched at the London Business Forum on Trade and Investment with Palestine on 15 December (in which my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills participated). Executives from Consolidated Contractors Company were involved in both the visit programme in Palestine and the London event.

CCC is a major contractor in the Middle East and works closely with a variety of British companies. It is possible that there have been meetings and contacts which UKTI's records do not cover.

Departmental Energy

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has a strategy to encourage voltage optimisation on its estate. [295274]

Ian Lucas: This Department is in the process of submitting an application for Salix funding in order to install voltage optimisation equipment in its main building at 1 Victoria Street. On the basis of this installation being successful, we will encourage other bodies sponsored by the Department to do likewise.

Departmental Marketing

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on advertising and publicity in each of the last five years. [294972]

Mr. McFadden: Spending on advertising procured through the Central Office of Information by the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) in the last five years is as follows:

£

Campaign	*Press*	*Radio*	*Poster*	*Internet*	*Media total*
2008-09					
Agency Workers Campaign 2008-09 (first part of the Vulnerable Workers campaign)	341,212	518,139	—	—	859,351
Employing People 2008-09	37,140	—	—	—	37,140
National Minimum Wage 2008-09	30,260	34,429	114,133	—	178,821
Dispute Resolution 2008-09	5,977	—	—	—	5,977
Trawlermen Compensation Scheme 2008-09	3,317	—	—	—	3,317
Total 2008-09	—	—	—	—	1,084,606
2007-08					
Nuclear Energy Consultation 2007-08	146,380	—	—	—	146,380
Employing People 2007-08	71,446	—	—	—	71,446
National Minimum Wage 2007-08	4,447	392,297	157,411	—	554,155
Total 2007-08	—	—	—	—	771,981
2006-07					
Consumer Direct—Thomson Directories 2006-07	581,424	—	—	—	581,424
DTI Classified Recruitment 2006-07	11,457	—	—	—	11,457
ACAS Miscellaneous Advertising Activity 2006-07	82,641	146,308	—	—	228,949
Total 2006-07	—	—	—	—	821,830
2005-06					
Consumer Direct 2005-06	366,936	823,011	87,903	170,000	1,447,850
DTI Classified—Recruitment Advertising 2005-06	31,099	—	—	—	31,099
SBS Business Link 2005-06	1,502,301	—	—	—	1,502,301
New National Minimum Wage 2005-06	328,603	—	—	41,000	369,603
Directgov—DTI Employee Franchise 2005-06	117,690	—	—	10,000	127,690
Total 2005-06	—	—	—	—	3,478,543
2004-05					
Consumer Direct 2004-05	170,600	326,738	209,150	—	706,488
SBS Business Link 2004-05	552,712	—	—	—	552,712
Import Licence Announcements 2004-05	74,300	—	—	—	74,300
DTI Classified Recruitment Advertising 2004-05	41,007	—	—	—	41,007
New Minimum Wage 2004-05	315,754	—	—	—	315,754
Renewable Energy 2004-05	15,542	—	—	—	15,542
Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion 2004-05	30,494	—	—	—	30,494
Firework Safety 04-05 - (media only)	17,061	152,527	18,892	—	188,480
DTI - Dispute Resolution (media only)	81,768	—	—	—	81,768
SBS Press Media Buying Costs 2004-05	—	—	—	—	3,255
Total 2004-05	—	—	—	—	2,009,800

Spending on advertising procured through the Central Office of Information by the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) is as follows:

£

	Press	*Television*	*Radio*	*Media total*
2008-09				
Higher Education Student Finance campaign 2008-09	58,560	1,224,996	432,249	1,715,805
Science Innovation Press Campaign 2008-09	149,577	—	—	149,577
Total 2008/09	—	—	—	1,865,382
2007-08				
Higher Education Student Finance 2007-08	229,751	1,198,017	597,984	2,025,702
Total 2007/08	—	—	—	2,025,702

Details of any other expenditure on advertising are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spending on external public relations procured by the Strategic Marketing team via the Central Office of Information (COI) or placed directly with PR companies for BERR and DTI in the last five years is as follows:

	Amount spent (£)
2008-09 BERR	
Employing People	165,596.25
Consumer Protection Regulations	112,142.03
Flexible working	24,733.63
Queen's Awards	19,875
Renewable Energy	2,506.54
Total 2008-09	324,853.45

	Amount spent (£)
2007-08 DTI and BERR	
Enterprising Britain	172,630.27
Renewable Energy	109,326.38
Employing People	30,030
Queen's Awards	17,254.61
Fireworks safety	15,000
Consumer Protection Regulations	73,000
Total 2007-08	417,241.26
2006-07 DTI	
Business Link PR	179,113
Gap Analysis	9,071
DTI Renewable Energy PR	131,582
Small Business Service (SBS) Enterprising Britain PR	163,642
Total 2006-07	483,408
2005-06 DTI	
Consumer Direct PR	32,694
Consumer Direct PR	239,050
Renewable Energy PR	137,080
Small Business Service (SBS) Enterprising Britain PR	76,240
SBS Interim PR activity	105,786
Total 2005-06	590,850
2004-05 DTI	
DTI Best Business Practice PR	346,205
DTI Best Practice Media Evaluation	5,910
DTI Dispute Resolution PR	74,962
DTI Best Practice PR	158,898
DTI Renewables	572,633
SBS Sunday Times Enterprise Network Sponsorship	146,497
Total 2004-05	1,305,105

Spending on public relations, including contracts placed by DIUS using a framework agreement and by COI on behalf of the Department, is as follows:

2007-08 total: £261,072

2008-09 total: £193,300.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether Government cars have been provided for the use of special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months. [297743]

Mr. McFadden: Special advisers in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are not provided with Government cars.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296178]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* This Department uses Royal Mail's first and second class services for its external standard mailings, although these services are not provided under contract.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the procurement budget of his Department and its predecessor was in each of the last five years; and what proportion of that budget was spent on contracts placed with small and medium-sized enterprises in each such year. [290001]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not separately identify a procurement budget within its total allocation of resources and neither did its predecessor departments, BERR and DIUS.

Information on the percentage of procurement spend with SMEs is not generally recorded but in 2007-08, an exercise was undertaken that showed that SMEs accounted for the following percentages of total procurement spend:

BERR—13 per cent.

DIUS—32 per cent.

The definition of an SME is taken from the Glover Report, which refers to EU Recommendation 2003/361/EC and stipulates that an SME is an organisation with a headcount of less than 250 and a maximum turnover of £40 million.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293247]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service awarded the following percentage of procurement contracts to small businesses in each of the following financial years:

	Percentage	*Contracts awarded*	*To SMEs*
(1) 2006-07	50	10	5
(2) 2007-08	80	10	8
(3) 2008-09	59	17	10
(4) 2009-10 (to date)	67	6	4

Letter from Sarah Glasspool, dated 14 October 2009:

The National Measurement Office does not currently record company information as to whether they are SME's therefore it would take a disproportionate amount of time to obtain the information required for this PQ.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 12 October 2009, UIN 293247, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The percentage of procurement contracts awarded to small businesses by Companies House was as follows:-

	Percentage
2006-07	30.4
2007-08	31.9

	Percentage
2008-09	33.4
2009-10	33.2

Letter from Ian Fletcher, dated 15 October 2009:

I am responding on behalf of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 12 October 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The percentage of procurement contracts awarded to small businesses by the Intellectual Property Office is (i) 2006-07: 69%, (ii) 2007-08: 67%, (iii) 2008-09: 60%, and (iv) 2009-10: 46%.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question, what percentage of procurement contracts (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement.

The Insolvency Service awarded the following percentage of procurement contracts to small businesses in each of the following financial years:

	Percentage	*Contracts awarded*	*To SMEs*
(1) 2006-07	50	10	5
(2) 2007-08	80	10	8
(3) 2008-09	59	17	10
(4) 2009-10 (to date)	67	6	4

Digital Broadcasting: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency which will be liable for payment of the levy proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper. [291563]

Mr. Timms: This Department has made no specific estimate of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath liable for payment of the levy proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper.

Ofcom estimates that there are 1,145,411 fixed lines in the West Midlands area. Ofcom does not have estimates for Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath. We recognise that those on the lowest incomes might have difficulty paying the fixed line levy and that is why we have confirmed that those on social telephony schemes will be exempt. The social telephony schemes are available to those on income support, income-based job seeker's allowance, employment support allowance (income rated) or guaranteed pensions credit.

Entry Clearances: Students

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he last met the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration to discuss student visas. [297088]

Mr. Lammy: On 20 July I hosted a roundtable meeting with my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration and a group of university vice chancellors to discuss migration issues and higher education, including student visas. As a result of that meeting UKBA stepped up their preparations for dealing with the summer surge of applications from international students.

Export Credit Guarantees: Nigeria

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department has requested information from *(a)* MW Kellogg Limited and *(b)* Halliburton regarding Mr Jeffrey Tesler in connection with the LNG Plant at Bonny Island in Nigeria. [293951]

Ian Lucas: ECGD has not made any such requests as it is not an investigatory body and, as the SFO is already conducting its own investigation into the Bonny Island project, it would not have been appropriate for ECGD to pursue inquiries of its own.

High Pay Commission

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will establish a high pay commission. [291733]

Mr. McFadden: There are no plans to do so.

Higher Education

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many higher education institutions have applied to be able to use the title of university since 2004. [297090]

Mr. Lammy: Since 1 January 2004, there have been 19 applications from higher education institutions for university title. Of these 19 applications, 18 were successful.

Higher Education: Admissions

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 21 years and under and *(b)* over 21 years old in each socio-economic group resident in (i) St. Albans constituency, (ii) Hertfordshire, (iii) the East of England and (iv) England attended university in each of the last [illegible] years. [297639]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in tables 1 to 4. The figures are shown for full-time undergraduate entrants as socio-economic class (SEC) information is not available for part-time higher education students. Figures are provided for entrants aged under 21, and 21 and over as the socio-economic class data have a different basis for these two distinct age groups. Socio-economic class is based on occupation information: those aged under 21 provide their parent's occupation, and those aged 21 and over provide their own occupation.

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate entrants from St. Albans parliamentary constituency[1], UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Socio-economic classification	2003/04 Under 21	2003/04 21 and over	2004/05 Under 21	2004/05 21 and over	2005/06 Under 21	2005/06 21 and over	2006/07 Under 21	2006/07 21 and over	2007/08 Under 21	2007/08 21 and over
Higher managerial and professional occupations	150	10	180	10	150	10	160	5	160	10
Lower managerial and professional occupations	140	5	165	15	165	15	155	15	165	10
Intermediate occupations	60	15	65	10	60	10	65	5	55	5
Small employers and own account workers	35	5	25	5	15	0	30	5	25	5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	10	0	20	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
Semi-routine occupations	25	10	40	5	30	10	40	10	30	10
Routine occupations	10	5	15	5	10	0	10	0	10	5
Missing[3]	65	85	80	85	150	85	95	55	110	105

[1] The table does not include entrants whose constituency cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.
[2] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
[3] Includes those classified as "Never worked and long-term unemployed", "Not classified" and "Missing".

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2: Full-time undergraduate entrants from Hertfordshire local authority[1], UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Socio-economic classification	2003/04 Under 21	2003/04 21 and over	2004/05 Under 21	2004/05 21 and over	2005/06 Under 21	2005/06 21 and over	2006/07 Under 21	2006/07 21 and over	2007/08 Under 21	2007/08 21 and over
Higher managerial and professional occupations	1,710	80	1,550	70	1,500	75	1,430	50	1,575	65
Lower managerial and professional occupations	1,860	110	1,535	150	1,495	135	1,485	120	1,585	115
Intermediate occupations	835	130	675	110	700	110	705	75	675	85
Small employers and own account workers	405	20	300	30	300	20	315	25	335	35
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	265	10	215	15	190	10	195	20	190	20
Semi-routine occupations	560	105	385	85	425	120	405	80	430	115
Routine occupations	225	40	140	30	155	40	170	35	155	35
Missing[3]	1,105	920	915	915	1,375	935	1,030	815	1,140	955

[1] The table does not include entrants whose local authority cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.
[2] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
[3] Includes those classified as "Never worked and long-term unemployed", "Not classified" and "Missing".

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 3: Full-time undergraduate entrants from East of England Government office region[1], UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Socio-economic classification	2003/04 Under 21	2003/04 21 & over	2004/05 Under 21	2004/05 21 & over	2005/06 Under 21	2005/06 21 & over	2006/07 Under 21	2006/07 21 & over	2007/08 Under 21	2007/08 21 & over
Higher managerial and professional occupations	4,230	225	5,375	265	5,470	275	5,230	245	6,040	165
Lower managerial and professional occupations	5,970	715	6,110	535	6,305	635	6,050	575	6,905	530
Intermediate occupations	2,195	575	2,510	480	2,735	500	2,515	400	2,830	440

Table 3: Full-time undergraduate entrants from East of England Government office region[1], UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Socio-economic classification	2003/04 Under 21	2003/04 21 & over	2004/05 Under 21	2004/05 21 & over	2005/06 Under 21	2005/06 21 & over	2006/07 Under 21	2006/07 21 & over	2007/08 Under 21	2007/08 21 & over
Small employers and own account workers	1,370	135	1,360	105	1,460	120	1,425	105	1,615	95
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1,115	90	885	85	925	75	930	70	1,090	60
Semi-routine occupations	2,290	745	1,780	640	1,905	595	1,845	590	2,165	575
Routine occupations	1,375	200	745	150	765	100	875	105	985	190
Missing[3]	5,285	5,545	4,495	4,700	5,315	4,500	4,805	4,245	6,030	4,990

[1] The table does not include entrants whose Government office region cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.
[2] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
[3] Includes those classified as "Never worked and long-term unemployed", "Not classified" and "Missing".
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 4: Full-time undergraduate entrants from England, UK higher education institutions[1], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Socio-economic classification	2003/04 Under 21	2003/04 21 and over	2004/05 Under 21	2004/05 21 and over	2005/06 Under 21	2005/06 21 and over	2006/07 Under 21	2006/07 21 and over	2007/08 Under 21	2007/08 21 and over
Higher managerial and professional occupations	44,400	2,640	44,595	2,535	44,030	2,800	43,680	2,575	47,520	2,705
Lower managerial and professional occupations	55,740	7,195	57,350	7,190	58,620	8,170	56,160	6,960	58,030	7,400
Intermediate occupations	23,775	6,335	24,360	6,800	25,175	6,635	23,935	5,335	25,155	6,235
Small employers and own account workers	12,800	1,370	13,025	1,290	13,515	1,805	13,795	1,355	14,425	1,535
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	9,110	850	8,750	825	9,355	1,025	9,005	865	9,275	1,055
Semi-routine occupations	18,965	6,720	19,050	6,465	21,040	7,615	20,715	6,955	22,390	8,520
Routine occupations	8,775	2,190	8,630	2,055	9,365	2,880	9,665	2,495	10,080	2,935
Missing[2]	46,540	55,520	48,345	56,360	59,260	54,265	53,670	52,095	54,520	58,380

[1] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
[2] Includes those classified as "Never worked and long-term unemployed", "Not classified" and "Missing".
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many school students from Birmingham, Northfield constituency entered higher education in each of the last 10 years. [296273]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to identify whether entrants to higher education from Birmingham, Northfield constituency attended schools or further education colleges. The numbers of 18 and 19-year-old undergraduate entrants to UK Higher Education Institutions from Birmingham, Northfield constituency are given as an alternative in the table.

Undergraduate entrants from Birmingham, Northfield constituency are defined by full and valid home post codes recorded for the student in the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record. Some of these students, although resident in Birmingham, Northfield, may not have attended schools in Birmingham, Northfield constituency.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from HESA in January 2010.

18 and 19-year-old undergraduate entrants[1] from Birmingham, Northfield constituency[2] UK higher education institutions[3]—academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08

Academic year	18-year-old entrants	19-year-old entrants
1998/99	95	40
1999/2000	130	70
2000/01	140	60
2001/02	155	50
2002/03	155	70

18 and 19-year-old undergraduate entrants[1] from Birmingham, Northfield constituency[2] UK higher education institutions[3]—academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Academic year	18-year-old entrants	19-year-old entrants
2003/04	165	70
2004/05	145	45
2005/06	190	65
2006/07	180	75
2007/08	155	80

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The figures in the answer do not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid information.

[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Israel: Natural Gas

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received regarding a proposed agreement between the Israel Electric Corporation and British Gas to purchase gas from the Gaza Marine field; and if he will make a statement. [293003]

Ian Lucas: Ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) have received no recent representations on a proposed agreement between the Israel Electric Corporation and BG Group to purchase gas from the Gaza Marine field.

Members: Correspondence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to Question 291983, on broadband and the BT network, tabled on 9 October 2009. [297339]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on Thursday 29 October, *Official Report*, column reference 541W.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* cars and *(b)* vans purchased under the vehicle scrappage scheme were (i) manufactured in the UK and (ii) imported. [296234]

Ian Lucas: Full data will not be available until the end of the scheme, as details of new vehicles purchased, and whether they are vans or cars, are not available until transactions are completed. Further analysis will also be required at the end of the scheme as certain models are both imported and manufactured in the UK.

In 2008, 86 per cent. of vehicles sold in the UK were imported. However, the global automotive supply chain is highly integrated and many imported cars will have a significant UK content in terms of components, for example, we understand 90 per cent. of Ford vehicles sold under the scrappage scheme have engines made in the UK.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars had been purchased under the car scrappage scheme in *(a)* Newport East constituency and *(b)* Wales on the latest date for which figures are available. [295931]

Ian Lucas: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 357 completed scrappage transactions in Newport, East and 7,934 in Wales.

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars had been purchased under the car scrappage scheme in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire at the latest date for which figures are available. [295353]

Mr. McFadden: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 1,109 completed scrappage transactions in Leeds and 4,135 in West Yorkshire.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars have been purchased under the scrappage scheme in *(a)* London, *(b)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(c)* Twickenham constituency. [295430]

Ian Lucas: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 13,729 completed scrappage transactions in London including 418 in the London borough of Richmond which were all in the Twickenham constituency.

Musical Instruments: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on supporting UK manufacturers of musical instruments. [296130]

Ian Lucas: There is no specific support for UK manufacturers of musical instruments. However, the Government have an extensive programme of support for manufacturing through Business Link, particularly through the Manufacturing Advisory Service and the Real Help for Business package that was launched in January 2009.

Both can be accessed at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk

National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1433W, on public bodies: finance, what the return profit from the portfolio of investments in companies and loans held by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, known as NESTA Investments, was in each year since 1998. [296232]

Mr. Lammy: NESTA's early stage investment activity was launched as a fully commercial operation in March 2007 under the name of NESTA Investments. Prior to this, investment activity was not fully commercial in remit and consisted of a mixture of grants, interest-free loans and other instruments.

Since the formation of NESTA Investments, the profits on disposal of investments to third parties held in the NESTA Investment portfolio were £278,000 in 2007-08 and £133,000 in 2008-09.

I have been advised by NESTA that NESTA Investments is expected to realise the value of its portfolio over the next five to seven years. This time frame is the average period that seed funds operating in this field tend to hold their investments, before realisation.

Overseas Trade: Afghanistan

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage trade and investment between the UK and Afghanistan. [297327]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment has no presence in Afghanistan and does not proactively support UK companies in this market. However, lobbying on behalf of British companies may be carried out on a case-by-case basis by the British embassy in Kabul.

Parental Leave: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency who took *(a)* paternity and *(b)* maternity leave in the most recent period for which figures are available. [291564]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on Maternity Rights and Mother's Employment Decisions (published 2007). The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby between February and May 2006.

Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave.

Up-to-date estimates of fathers taking paternity leave are from the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. 93 per cent of fathers took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave (The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners).

The Department does not collect data on take-up of maternity and paternity leave at constituency level.

Rover Group: Serious Fraud Office

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the team investigating the collapse of MG Rover first notified the Government that there were sufficient grounds for referral to the Serious Fraud Office. [295118]

Ian Lucas: The inspectors kept the Department informed of the areas of concern and the potential misconduct that they uncovered during the course of the inspection. They did not consider that there were specific issues that needed to be referred to the Serious Fraud Office during the inspection.

However, when the final report was delivered it was clear that, when read in its entirety, it raised serious questions as to criminality. In particular, the inspectors found that members of the Phoenix Consortium obtained unreasonably large financial rewards and that they undertook a number of transactions to allocate assets to companies in the group other than MG Rover Group and in which MGRG had no interest. The Secretary of State considered that it was important to establish whether a criminal investigation into possible criminal conduct was appropriate before publication of the report. Given the Serious Fraud Office's responsibility for dealing with allegations of this type it was appropriate to refer the matter to them for their consideration.

Royal Mail: Communications Workers Union

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Communication Workers Union has received from Royal Mail in each of the last 10 financial years. [297670]

Mr. McFadden: Any arrangements between the CWU and Royal Mail (for example, on facility time for CWU representatives) are a matter for Royal Mail management. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the revenue Royal Mail lost as a result of industrial action *(a)* in 2007 and *(b)* between January and October 2009. [297498]

Mr. McFadden: Estimates of revenue loss due to industrial action are a matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1527W, on Royal Mail: industrial disputes, how many working days the Royal Mail lost as a result of industrial action on *(a)* 22 to 23 October 2009 and *(b)* 29 to 31 October 2009. [297499]

Mr. McFadden: Estimating the number of days lost due to the recent industrial action is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Students: Disabled

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in each region have received disabled students' allowance in each year since its introduction. [296239]

Mr. Lammy: As part of widening participation, the Government give generous financial support to disabled students in higher education. Disabled students' allowances (DSAs) are available to help with the extra costs students may incur on their course as a direct result of a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. DSAs are paid in addition to the standard student support package; they are not means tested and do not have to be repaid.

In 2009/10 eligible undergraduate students may receive the following:

Allowance	*Maximum payable to eligible full-time undergraduates (£)*	*Maximum payable to eligible part-time undergraduates (£)*
Specialist equipment allowance (for the duration of the course)	5,161	5,161
Non-medical helper allowance	20,520	15,390
General allowance	1,724	1,293
Travel allowance	Unlimited	Unlimited

For postgraduate students (full or part-time) there is one allowance to meet all costs, up to £10,260 in 2009/10.

Information on DSA by region is set out in the following table

Recipients of disabled student allowances by academic year and region[1]

Thousand

Region of recipients latest home postcode[2]	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*[3]
East Midlands	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.9
East of England	2.7	2.9	3.3	3.5
London	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.2
North East	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1
North West	3.4	3.9	4.3	4.7
South East	5.5	6.2	6.4	6.9
South West	3.9	4.3	4.5	4.8
West Midlands	2.6	2.8	3.2	3.5
Yorkshire and The Humber	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.9
Scotland	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Wales	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Unknown[4]	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.8
Total England domiciled at time of application	32.3	35.6	38.2	40.7

[1] DSA claims can be made retrospectively against earlier academic years. Table shows data at 31 March 2009.

[2] The table covers students who were domiciled in England at the time of their first application for student support. The region shown relates to the postcode of the latest home address held by SLC, which may be the recipients address after leaving university. Some recipients from England have subsequently moved to Scotland or Wales.

[3] Provisional.

[4] Unknown covers those with missing or invalid postcode information, and English domiciled recipients who subsequently moved abroad. Consistent data are not available before academic year 2004/05.

Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on disabled students' allowance in each year since its introduction. [296240]

Mr. Lammy: As part of widening participation, the Government give generous financial support to disabled students in higher education. Disabled students' allowances (DSAs) are available to help with the extra costs students may incur on their course as a direct result of a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. DSAs are paid in addition to the standard student support package; they are not means tested and do not have to be repaid.

Students: Finance

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of students from Suffolk were receiving non-repayable maintenance grants from Suffolk local education authority in each of the last five years; and what average grant was received. [296063]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows:

Students awarded grants in Suffolk[1]

Academic year	*Number of students awarded grants*	*Average Amount awarded (£)*	*Students awarded grants as a percentage of all those awarded some form of support*
2004/05	1,170	1,140	13
2005/06	2,040	1,060	22
2006/07	3,520	1,640	36
2007/08	4,430	1,840	43
2008/09 (provisional)[2]	5,460	2,170	54

[1] Figures cover the higher education grant, the maintenance grant and grants and allowances for children and dependents.

[2] Provisional 2008/09 data at mid-November 2008. Figures may change as later applications are processed.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Grant figures in the tables cover the higher education grant, introduced in 2004, the maintenance grant, phased in from 2006, and grants and allowances for children and dependents. Different amounts are available for each type of grant. Figures contain students in each year of their courses. The amount a student receives depends on household income, year of entry to higher education and personal circumstances.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of applications for support from the Student Loans Company for 2009-10 have been processed; [296236]

(2) how many applications for maintenance support had been made to the Student Loans Company before the start of the 2009-10 academic year; and how many such applicants have been granted *(a)* no more than and *(b)* more than the minimum level; [296237]

(3) how many applications *(a)* to the Student Loans Company for financial support and *(b)* to higher education institutions to follow courses there were for the academic year (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [296238]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company has released figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009/10 academic year.

The releases will include the following information:

Total applications received

Applications approved

Applications currently being processed

Ineligible/withdrawn applications

Applications started online but not completed

Further information required from student/sponsors

Students receiving first maintenance payment.

The first release of this information was on Tuesday 27 October 2009, and this covered the processing and payment up to and including 18 October 2009. This will be followed by a further two updates at weekly intervals. The information is being made available on the Student Loans Company website.

According to information from UCAS, in 2008/09, the number of English-domiciled accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England was 330,400. The equivalent final figure for 2009/10 is not yet available, but by 14 October 2009 the total had reached 344,508.

UK Trade and Investment

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints received by UK Trade and Investment were responded to *(a)* within one to 10 days, *(b)* within 11 to 15 days, *(c)* within 16 to 20 days and *(d)* more than 21 days after receipt in each of the last four years. [294869]

Ian Lucas: UKTI does not hold this information and to gather these details would be at disproportionate cost.

There are over 160 UKTI locations around the world and a complaint can be initiated at any of these points of access. Almost without exception, complaints are dealt with at a local level by our frontline staff without the need to escalate the matter with a referral to the corporate centre.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK Trade and Investment employees have taken time off work as a result of diagnosed stress in each of the last five years. [294870]

Ian Lucas: The number of staff in UKTI (London and Glasgow) who took certified sick leave due to "anxiety/stress/depression/other psychiatric illness" in each of the last five years are as follows:

	Number of staff
2004	9
2005	8
2006	10
2007	6
2008	7

It is not possible to identify staff who suffered from stress alone.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies who received assistance from UK Trade and Investment in 2008-09 also received assistance from a regional development agency in the same period. [294871]

Ian Lucas: UKTI does not hold these figures. UKTI acts as the trade arm for the regional development agencies (RDAs), providing trade services for companies. Where companies have been helped by both UKTI and the RDAs, it will be on separate forms of business support.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* staff costs his Department incurred in relation to UK Trade and Investment employees based overseas in 2008. [294872]

Ian Lucas: Overseas accommodation and staffing costs are borne by our parent Departments, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. As part of the end-of year internal cost attribution process, the FCO does produce an estimated cost for overseas expenditure in these categories.

In 2008-09 the following costs were attributed to UKTI and are recorded in the UK Trade and Investment Departmental Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, published 20 July and as presented to the House of Commons. ISBN: 9 78 010296 1706.

(a) £24.598 million

(b) £51.4 million.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* staff costs his Department incurred in relation to employees based at UK Trade and Investment headquarters in 2008. [294873]

Ian Lucas: The costs of UKTI accommodation costs in the UK (London and Glasgow) are primarily funded through BIS administration and those costs are publicly available in the UK Trade and Investment departmental report and resource accounts 2008-09, at pages 116 and 115 respectively, published 20 July and as presented to the House of Commons. ISBN: 9 78 010296 1706. This includes the cost for delivery teams that are co-located with HQ functions in London and Glasgow.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK Trade and Investment staff were based in each region in each of the last four years. [294874]

Ian Lucas: People working for UKTI are either employees of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or from the private sector. In the English regions there are 108 civil servants, with the majority of staff being employed by private sector organisations. The following table sets out the number of people working on behalf of UKTI in each region:

	2006 (November)	*2007 (October)*	*2008 (October)*	*2009 (June)*
East of England	44	46	42	39
East Midlands	37	42	43	41
London	38	39	44	45

	2006 (November)	*2007 (October)*	*2008 (October)*	*2009 (June)*
North East	31	39	39	34
North West	41	49	43	40
South East	70	64	61	61
South West	36	44	43	43
West Midlands	53	58	58	52
Yorkshire and Humber	37	42	42	44
Total	387	423	415	399

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which companies in each region received assistance from UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years. [294875]

Ian Lucas: UKTI collects information on services delivered through the UKTI Performance and Impact Monitoring survey, available at:

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/pims

However, this information is provided in confidence and the disclosure at the level of individual companies would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure has been incurred on marketing UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years. [294876]

Ian Lucas: Marketing of UK Trade and Investment is an integrated part of the promotion of exporting/trade development or marketing of the UK, not a separate function. UKTI Marketing Group programme spend over the last four years:

	£ Million
2008-09	10
2007-08	9.1
2006-07	9.8
2005-06	9.7

This represents programme expenditure by UKTI's Marketing Group only and does not represent UKTI's total expenditure on marketing the UK and UKTI's services. Additional expenditure is spread across UKTI's groups to varying degrees over the four year period.

Note:

These figures include spend on activity in the UK and overseas, the latter predominantly, though not exclusively, being activity to help achieve foreign direct investment targets. It also includes spend on developing the sector marketing strategies.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of UK Trade and Investment's performance against its targets for attracting *(a)* high value, *(b)* good quality and *(c)* priority projects in each of the last four years. [295049]

Ian Lucas: Foreign direct investment targets according to *(a)* high value, *(b)* good quality and *(c)* priority project classifications have only been used for the last two years. Previously, UKTI has benchmarked against knowledge driven targets.

Targets for 2007-08 to 2009-10 and outturn for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows:

	Target 2007-08 to 2009-10	*Outturn 2007-08*	*Outturn 2008-09*
(a) High Value	125	182	262
(b) Good Quality	285	255	244
(c) RDA Priority	115	112	94
Totals	525	549	600

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurants by UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years. [295052]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) does not directly employ staff but draws on resource from its two parent Departments, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). UKTI has offices in 98 different countries, the nine English regions, London and Glasgow.

UKTI holds financial information on travel costs at the aggregate level centrally whilst detailed information is held locally. To provide the information requested would require obtaining detailed information from each location and therefore can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* standard, *(b)* business and *(c)* first class air travel by UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years. [295053]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) does not directly employ staff but draws on resource from its two parent Departments, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). UKTI has offices in 98 different countries, the nine English regions, London and Glasgow.

UKTI holds financial information on travel costs at the aggregate level centrally whilst detailed information is held locally. To provide the information requested would require obtaining detailed information from each location and therefore can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much financial assistance UK Trade and Investment provided to businesses in the defence sector *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the financial assistance provided to all businesses in each of the last four years. [295054]

Ian Lucas: On the 1 April 2008 responsibility for defence trade promotion transferred from the Ministry of Defence to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). The cost of defence trade promotion is jointly borne by UKTI, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

As set out in UKTI's Departmental Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, total expenditure was £323.2 million. Of this £301.6 million (93.3 per cent.) was spent in supporting businesses not from the defence and security sector, leaving £21.6 million (6.7 per cent) on businesses in the defence and security sector. Figures prior to 2008-09 are not available on a comparable basis and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much UK Trade and Investment spent on consultants and other external advice in each of the last four years. [295055]

Ian Lucas: This information is only held for the previous three years. It is publicly available in the UK Trade and Investment Departmental Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, published 20 July 2009 and as presented to the House of Commons. ISBN: 9 78 010296 1706 and in the corresponding publication of the previous year that gives figures for both 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees of UK Trade and Investment attended the Beijing Olympics in July 2008 in an official capacity. [295079]

Ian Lucas: No UKTI employees attended the Beijing Games in July 2008 in an official capacity.

UK Trade and Investment: Complaints

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints were received by UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years. [295067]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* This information is publicly available at Annex D of the UK Trade and Investment Departmental Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, published 20 July and as presented to the House of Commons. ISBN: 9 78 010296 1706 and, for previous years, in the corresponding publications of the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (previously the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what targets for responding to complaints were adopted by UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years. [295068]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* This information is publicly available at Annex D of the UK Trade and Investment Departmental Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, published 20 July and as presented to the House of Commons. ISBN: 9 78 010296 1706 and, for previous years, in the corresponding publications of the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (previously the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 4 November 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Housing: Energy

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the energy rating of each building on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate was in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [297671]

Nick Harvey: Energy ratings for public buildings were introduced in 2008 under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 and therefore energy ratings are available for 2008 and 2009 only.

House of Commons display energy certificate ratings

	2008		2009	
Building	*Energy rating*	*Energy band*	*Energy rating*	*Energy band*
Palace of Westminster	207	G	[1]146	F
Portcullis House	203	G	192	G
Norman Shaw North and Norman Shaw South including Canon Row	140	F	147	F
1 Parliament Street including Derby Gate	175	G	221	G
7 Millbank	246	G	251	G

[1] The Palace of Westminster building classification has been adjusted from 'Schools and Seasonal Public Buildings' to 'General Office' to more adequately reflect its pattern of use. This accounts for the significant change in rating.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account his Department took of the Prime Minister's request for expansion of the cadet force when determining changes to its level of funding. [296292]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 28 October 2009]*: The Department has taken full account of the Prime Minister's request for expansion of cadets for state schools and state school pupils, when taking very hard decisions about funding. Our commitment to the Prime Minister's direction remains undiminished, as evidenced by our recent response to the Milburn Report, where we have accepted in principle the recommendation to ensure that those state school pupils who wish to get involved in cadets may do so. It is recognised, however, that in the present challenging financial situation we cannot fully meet it immediately. The MOD is investigating the possibility of third party funding to support the set-up and running of cadet units including further opportunities for joint working with the Department of Children Schools and Families.

Armed Forces: Medical Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from the Joint Medical Command were based in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England, *(d)* Northern Ireland, *(e)* Cyprus and *(f)* Germany in each of the last five years. [291377]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Joint Medical Command (JMC) was formed on 1 April 2008, comprising personnel serving in a wide range of MOD medical divisions and locations, including the former Defence Medical Education and Training Agency and the Defence dental services. Information on the location of JMC personnel is currently being compiled and I will place figures in the Library of the House once work has been completed.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength of the defence medical services is in respect of each (i) service and (ii) trade. [297934]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 29W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Defence: Scotland

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian staff are presently employed in Kentigern House in Glasgow. [295106]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Approximately 1,400 people currently work in Kentigern House. Of these approximately 200 are military and 1,200 are civilian. Roughly 60 per cent. of the 1,400 work for the Army Personnel Centre. The remainder are attached to various other MOD organisations.

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what defence establishments in Scotland are presently operated by his Department. [295107]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ministry of Defence sites in Scotland are listed as follows.

It should be noted that this list does not include the Volunteer Estate, Army Career and Information Offices, Armed Forces Careers Offices or Service Family Accommodation.

Black Dog Range
DMC Beith
RNAD Coulport
DMC Crombie
DMC Glen Douglas
Ardgarten Training Area
RAF Aird Uig
Aultbea Training Camp

Balduff Training Area
RAF Benbecula
Barry Buddon Training Camp
DSCA Radio Brown Carrick
Burntisland
DE Hebrides
Ballscalloch Radio Station
Blarbuie Rifle Range
RAF Buchan
Burgie Hill Radio Station
ISS Radio Bruxie Hill
Cameron Barracks
Cambret Hill Mould Site
Edinburgh Castle
HMS Caledonia
Cerium Building
Craigkelly Comms Site
Castle Kennedy Training Area
Clynder Comms Site
Collafirth Hill Forward Scatter Site
Castlelaw Ranges
Craigiehall
Colonsay Comms Site
Cullaloe Hills NATO Relay Station
Cape Wrath Bombing Range
Applecross
Craigowl Hill Mould and Comms Site
Dundonald Hill Comms Site
Loch Fyne
Loch Goil
Rona
DE Rosyth
Dunion Hill Mould Comms Site
Kyle of Lochalsh
Dreghorn Barracks
DE South Arm Rosyth
DPA Seismic Stations Eskdalemuir
Eastriggs Storage Depot
OFD Garelochhead
Fair Isle Mould Comms Site
Finnart Ocean Terminal
Forthside Stirling
Fort George
Foyers Comms Site
HMS Gannet
Galloway Training Area
Glendocherty Mould and Comms Site
Glencorse Barracks
Kentigern House
Green Lowther Hill Radio Station
Garelochead Training Area
HQ 51 Highland Brigade Forthside
Isle of Lewis Mould and Comms Site
Inchdrewer House
Islay Comms Site
Inverness Training Camp Dundonnell
Inverness Training Camp Kingussie
Inverness Training Camp Tulloch
Invergordon Burial Rights
Kirkcudbright Training Area
RAF Kinloss
Balmacara House
Kinlochleven Training Area
Barvas Rifle Range
Loch Eyenort Comms Site
RAF Leuchars
Loch Ewe Training Area
RAF Lossiemouth
Rhu Port Logistics Unit
DE Machrihanish
Mullach Dubh Comms Site
Mormond Hill Comms Site
ISS Radio Meall Mor
Camrhu Monitor Station
Mull Communications Site
HMNB Clyde
Greenock Navy Buildings
Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment
NATO POL Depot Campbeltown
NATO POL Depot Loch Ewe
NATO POL Depot Loch Striven
Pitlochry Mould and Comms Site
Museum RHF Glasgow
Queen Victoria School
Rams Dale Range
Redford Cavalry Barracks
Redford Infantry Barracks
Kirk O Shotts Mould and Comms Site
Kirknewton Airfield
RM Condor
ISS Radio Crimond
ISS Radio Greenock
Ru Stafnish Radio Station
Scotstown Moor
Stirling Castle RHQ and Museum
DSG Forthside
Stornoway DRDF Site
RAF Saxa Vord
Tain Training Area DTE
Tighnablair Training Area
Tiree Comms Site
UGSAS Glasgow
Victoria Barracks
West Freugh
Old Man of Wick Rifle Range
Wyvis Training Area

Departmental Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297739]

Mr. Kevan Jones: During the last 12 months, 25 individuals have been authorised to work either fully or partially from home on a regular basis.

The total number of employees currently recorded as working from home is 191. This includes 74 individuals who are wholly home workers and 117 who split their hours between home and office working.

These figures do not include staff who work from home on an ad hoc basis with the agreement of their line managers. Details of such discretionary arrangements are not held centrally.

HMS Endurance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the future of HMS Endurance; and if he will make a statement. [297943]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 648W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

Military Aircraft: Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Air Force planes and *(b)* military planes from each country other than the UK have landed in Gibraltar in each of the last three years. [296959]

Bill Rammell: Landings by military aircraft at RAF Gibraltar in each of the last three complete years is provided as follows:

2006: 357 British and 4 foreign

2007: 271 British and 3 foreign

2008: 186 British and 11 foreign

2009: As of 28 October 2009, there have been 149 British and 6 foreign landings.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which companies are under contract to her Office to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296094]

Tessa Jowell: My Office has been part of the Cabinet Office since July 2007, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is the sponsoring Department for the Government Olympic Executive (GOE).

The Cabinet Office and the DCMS each procure mail services. Cabinet Office procurement and DCMS procurement will be outlined in the answers provided by the Minister of State at the Cabinet Office and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DCMS respectively.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people the Olympic Delivery Authority has employed at each pay grade in the last two years. [294786]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has provided the following tables, which detail the number of people at each pay grade at the end of the last two financial years (ending April 2008 and April 2009), and at the end of September 2009. The figures comprise permanent staff, fixed-term contract staff and secondees.

The ODA is now at peak activity and going forward, personnel numbers will begin to reduce in line with the ODA project scope.

April 2008

Band	Role	Number of staff
n/a	CEO	1
5	Directors	7
4	Heads of Function	28
3	Managers/Technical Professionals	79
2	Executive/Officers	32
1	Projects/ Administrative Support	47
	Total	194

April 2009

Band	Role	Number of staff
n/a	CEO	1
5	Directors	7
4	Heads of Function	28
3	Managers/Technical Professionals	89
2	Executive/Officers	56
1	Projects/ Administrative Support	56
	Total	237

September 2009

Band	Role	Number of staff
n/a	CEO	1
5	Directors	7
4	Heads of Function	28
3	Managers/Technical Professionals	89
2	Executive/Officers	60
1	Projects/ Administrative Support	69
	Total	254

Olympic Games 2012

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the cost of hosting the London 2012 *(a)* badminton and *(b)* rhythmic gymnastics events at (i) Wembley Arena, (ii) Barking Riverside and (iii) North Greenwich Arena. [294235]

Tessa Jowell: The cost estimates for hosting badminton and rhythmic gymnastics at the sites given are commercially sensitive and it would therefore not be appropriate to publish them while commercial negotiations are ongoing.

Olympic Games 2012: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many suppliers based in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea and *(b)* Essex have been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority since April 2009; and if she will make a statement. [296563]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1262W.

Since April 2009, there have been no additional contracts awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to businesses registered in Essex. However, after further clarification of ODA's supplier data, it has become apparent that of the 23 suppliers registered in Essex, one business is based in Southend-on-Sea.

These figures do not include those contracts awarded to sub-contractors based in Essex. Many other companies will have won 2012 work further down the supply chain.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what criteria the venue for the *(a)* badminton, *(b)* rhythmic gymnastics and *(c)* boxing events in the London 2012 Olympic games was selected. [295477]

Tessa Jowell: When considering the final choice of venue to host the badminton, rhythmic gymnastics and boxing events in 2012, the Olympic Board took into account value for money, deliverability and athlete experience.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reasons the programme delivery element of the Olympic budget has risen from £400 million in March 2007 to £678 million in July 2009; and if she will make a statement. [285680]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The programme delivery element of the Olympic Delivery Authority's baseline budget, announced in December 2007, was £647 million. This included delivery partner costs which were estimated, in March 2007, at £400 million. The current forecast final cost for programme delivery is £677 million, a potential increase of £30 million. This increase is due to IT costs and the potential for the delivery partner to earn higher performance-based enhanced profits as a result of the good progress being made and the programme being on schedule and budget.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the budget for the London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony is. [295429]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), a private company limited by guarantee.

LOCOG is working with key stakeholders to stage a number of inspiring ceremonies for the 2012 games, the costs of which will be met through their £2 billion privately-financed budget.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic shooting event at the Royal Artillery Barracks; what assessment she has made of the cost-effectiveness of hosting the event at that location; and if she will make a statement. [294232]

Tessa Jowell: The cost effectiveness of hosting the shooting events at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich was reviewed by the Olympic Board in spring this year as part of the process to finalise the venues for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. It would not be appropriate to publish commercially sensitive budget and cost information as the procurement for the facilities required for hosting shooting events has not yet begun.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has had discussions with the *(a)* Olympic Delivery Authority and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Health on the implications for access to the Queen Elizabeth Woolwich hospital of the holding of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic shooting event at the Royal Artillery Barracks. [294230]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are working closely with the Queen Elizabeth hospital, Greenwich borough council and the Department of Health to ensure that the hospital will continue to operate effectively during the games.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the full exclusion zone required by the International Shooting Federations will be in place for the duration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic shooting event to be held at the Royal Artillery Barracks. [294231]

Tessa Jowell: The SEZ planned for the Royal Artillery Barracks site is at a distance of 250 metres, which has been deemed appropriate by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), safety advisers and insurers. The ISSF has approved the technical aspects for the site. To minimise disruption to the surrounding area, the full extent of the safety exclusion zone is only planned to be in place during Olympic games shotgun events. The full exclusion zone is not required during Paralympic games as there is no shotgun event.

Olympic Games 2012: Plants

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many cut Christmas trees will be acquired in 2009 from *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* abroad for growing and subsequent planting at the main Olympic site for the London 2012 Olympics. [291993]

Tessa Jowell: There will be no cut Christmas trees acquired in 2009 from within the UK or abroad for growing and subsequent planting at the main Olympic site for the London 2012 Olympics.

Olympic Games 2012: Public Bodies

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for which public bodies the Government Olympic Executive is responsible; which individuals the Executive has appointed to each such body; and what the duration of appointment of each is. [296530]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* The Government Olympic Executive is responsible for the oversight of two non-departmental public bodies, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD). I appoint the members of both bodies and the appointments are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The following table lists the names and the duration of the current appointments to the ODA and OLD Boards. I have also appointed the Chief Executive of the ODA, David Higgins.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited (LOCOG) is a private company limited by guarantee, established under a Joint Venture Agreement with Government, the Mayor of London and the British Olympic Association. As Minister for the Olympics and Paralympics I represent Government as a member of the company, together with the Mayor of London and the Chair of the British Olympic Association. On 25 January 2006, the Board of LOCOG, with the consent of all three members, appointed Lord Sebastian Coe as Chair for an indefinite period. In addition, under the Joint Venture Agreement and LOCOG's Articles of Association, I am entitled to propose and then appoint one non-executive director to LOCOG's Board. On 19 October 2007, I appointed Stephen Lovegrove as a non-executive director of LOCOG for an initial term of three years.

Olympic delivery authority

Name	*Role*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Terms*
John Armitt CBE	Chair	September 2007	September 2012	1
David Fison	Member	January 2009	September 2012	1
Lorraine Baldry	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Tony Ball	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Neale Coleman	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Barry Camfield	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Stephen Duckworth OBE	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Christopher Garnett	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Sir Roy McNulty CBE	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Baroness Morgan of Huyton	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Kumar Muthalagappan OBE	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
Sir Nicholas Serota FRIBA	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2
David Taylor CBE	Member	April 2006	September 2012	2

Olympic lottery distributor

Name	*Role*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Terms*
Janet Paraskeva	Chair	March 2006	February 2010	1
Hilary Daniels	Member	April 2006	April 2010	1
Sir Craig Reedie CBE	Member	April 2006	April 2010	1
Carol Ainscow	Member	December 2008	December 2012	1
Lindsey Holbrook	Member	December 2008	December 2012	1

Olympic Games 2012: Religious Practice

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what provision has been made to respond to demand for facilities to practise faith and prayer arising from the number of people visiting London for the 2012 Olympics. [293217]

Tessa Jowell: We aspire for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to be inclusive to all. The wide diversity of London was one of the bid's greatest strengths and will no doubt help us achieve this aspiration.

Every organisation involved in the games has considered faith as part of their approach to diversity and inclusion. The Olympic Delivery Authority, the public body responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the games, has already produced inclusive design standards to guide construction contractors and sub-contractors. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has set up a faith reference group for LOCOG to engage with all faith communities to build awareness and advise how best to cater for athletes, spectators, media and other client groups attending the games—including signposting visitors to existing facilities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

English Heritage: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the website of *(a)* English Heritage, *(b)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(c)* the National Heritage Memorial Fund in each year since each was established. [297011]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: The following information has been supplied by the organisations requested.

	Total spend[1] (£)
(a) English Heritage	
2001-02	98,943
2002-03	142,170
2003-04	196,760
2004-05	222,973
2005-06	224,126
2006-07	189,662
2007-08	269,596
2008-09[2]	523,863
(b) & (c) Heritage Lottery Fund and National Heritage Memorial Fund	
2002-03	23,797
2003-04[3]	133,232
2004-05	41,441
2005-06	15,119
2006-07	24,569
2007-08	16,612
2008-09	34,611

[1] Does not include bespoke project costs.

[2] Includes a major project started in 2008-09 to redesign the English Heritage corporate website and change its underlying content management system. Due to go live in March 2010.

[3] Includes a re-design and new website build.

Sport England: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the website of *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* UK Sport, *(c)* the Football Foundation and *(d)* the Youth Sports Trust in each year since each was established. [297010]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The information has been supplied by the organisations listed in the question. *(a)* Sport England has provided the following information on their website spend since their records began in 2004-05:

Financial year	*Total spend (£)*
2004-05	[1]375,373.45
2005-06	104,772.41
2006-07	55,204.38
2007-08	22,560
2008-09	[2]177,846.38

[1] Includes start up costs

[2] Following the 2008-09 redevelopment, the Sport England website has been modernised to ensure more cost efficient technologies and they anticipate that their day to day running costs will be reduced to roughly £25,000 per annum in future years.

(b) UK Sport do not separate costs specifically for the website from wider e-communications. Information relating to spend on UK Sport's e-communications costs, including website maintenance, development and accessibility costs and other issues, is included in the table:

Financial year	*Total spend (£)*
2001-002	0
2002-03	19,030.59
2004-05	28,148.84
2005-06	19,566.60
2006-07	29,560.30
2007-08	25,113
2008-09	41,520.60

(c) The Football Foundation has provided the figures in the table, relating to their website spend:

Calendar year	*Total spend (£)*
2004	37,681.08
2005	32,628.57
2006	26,606.69
2007	57,121.01
2008	27,607.96
2009	22,110.29

(d) The Youth Sport Trust is an independent charity, rather than a non-departmental public body. The Youth Sport Trust has provided detail of expenditure on its website for the past five years:

Financial year	*Total*
2005-06	21,700
2006-07	9,600
2007-08	30,000
2008-09	44,500
2009-10	40,000

UK Film Council: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the website of the British Film Council in each year since it was established. [297012]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The UK Film Council (UKFC) has spent the following on its website:

	£
2000-01	18,474.26
2001-02	11,512.50
2002-03	6,100.00
2003-04	14,795.00
2004-05	12,840.00
2005-06	20,499.00
2006-07	48,650.83
2007-08	31,934.00
2008-09	19,945.89
2009-10	10,039.48
Total cost to date	194,790.96

The costs listed above cover the full expenditure incurred by the UKFC to create and maintain its website. The site meets a set standard for accessibility.

World Heritage Sites

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the maintenance of world heritage sites in EU member states. [297256]

Margaret Hodge: Neither I or my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, have had recent discussions with our European counterparts on the maintenance of World Heritage sites in EU member states.

TRANSPORT

Air Transport Users' Council

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average response time is for consumer enquiries made to the Air Transport Users' Council. [297651]

Paul Clark: Callers to the Air Transport Users' Council (AUC) advice line receive an immediate reply. Written correspondence is acknowledged within two days and a substantive reply is sent within five weeks.

In 2008-09 the AUC handled 12,307 inquiries—5,953 in writing and 6,354 by telephone.

Aviation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received on the effects on first person view flying of proposed air navigation order articles; and if he will hold discussions with the First Person View Flying Association on that matter. [297213]

Paul Clark: To date, we have received 14 representations about the effect of the proposed amendments to the Air Navigation Order on first person vision model flying. The British First Person View Model Flying Association has not requested a meeting on this subject. However, the Civil Aviation Authority and my officials would be pleased to meet them to discuss this issue.

Aviation: Safety

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent reports he has received on the incidence of aerotoxic syndrome in airline cabins. [297224]

Paul Clark: In its 2007 report on cabin air, the Committee on Toxicity (COT) said (paragraph 28):

> "it was agreed that the term aerotoxic syndrome was unhelpful because the health problems described were variable between subjects."

The Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) keep abreast of news on aviation health. We have commissioned research by Cranfield university into cabin air quality aimed at filling a gap in knowledge.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce the length of crossing times for the Dartford Crossing; and when he expects such steps to take effect. [296721]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency are committed to improving the levels of service experienced by users of the Dartford Crossing.

In the short term the Highways Agency are in the process of implementing a package of measures, including the introduction of average speed cameras and further traffic management technology, to reduce the number of incidents at the Crossing, which will improve journey times.

Additionally, in April 2009, the Department published its initial analysis of the current and possible future capacity constraints at the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing. On the basis of the findings and conclusions of the analysis, we announced further work to investigate what can be done in the short to medium term to improve the level of service provided by the existing Crossing.

The study recommended further work on two possible measures, recognising that each had the potential to generate some small benefits by increasing throughput while avoiding impacts on safety. This work is being taken forward and is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296081]

Chris Mole: Royal Mail is the main provider of mail services to the Department for Transport.

In addition the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has an annually renewable contract with Royal Mail for in-bound mail services, which has an expiry date of 15 August 2010.

Mail Services are also provided to the Department by DX Network Services under two separate contracts expiring on 2 October 2010 and 31 August 2011.

Driving: Working Hours

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Employments Rights Act 1996 to extend the definition of Working Time Regulations to include the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations. [296871]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is aware of the issue regarding a possible lack of provision in the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations 2005 for mobile workers to seek redress via employment tribunals.

Departmental officials are exploring the implications of a change to the Employment Rights Act 1996, via an amendment to the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations 2005, with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Tribunals Service.

When all the facts are known, a formal decision will be made on whether changes are needed. Any proposals for change will need to be the subject of a consultation process.

Finsbury Park Station

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has made a recent assessment of levels of *(a)* safety and *(b)* accessibility at Finsbury Park station; and whether his Department has made a recent estimate of passenger numbers at that station. [297234]

Chris Mole: Annual safety assessment on the railway network is a function of Infrastructure Managers and Railway Undertakings as set out by the Railway and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006 (ROGS) and is overseen by the Office of Rail Regulation, not the Department for Transport.

Reporting and estimating of annual passenger numbers at stations is also a function of the Office of Rail Regulation. However the Department is aware that approximately 5.2 million passenger entries/exits, and 2.4 million interchanges, were estimated at Finsbury Park for the 2007-08 period.

The accessibility of Finsbury Park station was assessed by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) as part of the consultation strategy behind the Railways for All programme in 2005. The SRA concluded that the station did not meet current standards for accessibility and recommended that level access routes be provided to platforms serving passenger trains. Finsbury Park has since been targeted for investment under the Department's Access for All programme towards achieving this, but these plans have been delayed by the decision of London Underground Ltd. to postpone the provision of step free access to underground trains.

Railway Stations: Disabled

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what monitoring his Department undertakes of the construction of step-free access to interchange stations in London; how much funding his Department has allocated for that programme of work; and what recent assessment he has made of progress towards completion of that programme. [297363]

Chris Mole: 38 mainline rail stations in London boroughs have been included in the Access for All programme and are due to receive an accessible route to and between platforms serving passenger trains. Each of these sites has some interchange with the tube, Docklands Light Railway, buses or other modes of transport.

Until detailed designs have been prepared for all these sites, it is too early to give an accurate estimate of the total investment required to deliver the work. However, the programme overall has a ring-fenced budget of £370 million until 2015.

The projects are being delivered by Network Rail, and progress is monitored at monthly programme group meetings and through site visits by officials. Delivery on the programme has improved this year and we expect 11 stations in London boroughs to be completed during 2010.

Railway Stations: Passengers

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the maximum number of passengers is that can be accommodated at Euston station at any point consistent with safety requirements; and on how many occasions since 1 January 2009 this number has been *(a)* reached and *(b)* exceeded. [296743]

Chris Mole: Safety arrangements at Euston are covered by Network Rail's authorised safety management system and therefore this is an operational matter for Network Rail as the operator of Euston Station. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways: Contract Cleaning

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the working conditions of contract cleaners providing services to train operating companies. [297433]

Chris Mole: At a recent meeting between the RMT Parliamentary Group and the Secretary of State for Transport, the issue of conditions of contract cleaners on Eurostar was raised. Ministers have also received correspondence in relation to the issue.

Railways: Electrification

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what capital funding he has allocated for the electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak railway line; and what his Department's most recent estimate is of the total cost of the project. [297232]

Chris Mole: In January 2009, the Department for Transport made an offer to contribute a capital sum towards the cost of the electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking line conditional on Transport for London taking forward the project, including working up a business case, finding the balance of the cost and bearing all risks.

The Department's contribution could be up to £25 million, the amount depending on as yet undefined savings against the budget for the North London Line Camden Road freight scheme announced last year.

Transport for London has since indicated that there is little likelihood that it could undertake to fund and bear the risks of the Gospel Oak to Barking electrification scheme. Although Network Rail and Transport for London have made preliminary cost estimates of this scheme, the Department has not done so.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* Transport for London and *(b)* the Mayor of London on the electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak line. [297233]

Chris Mole: There have been a number of discussions between Department for Transport Ministers and both Transport for London officials and the Mayor of London on the electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak line. In addition there has been ongoing official engagement on the subject.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been *(a)* received from and *(b)* paid out to each train operating company under cap and collar franchise arrangements in each year since 2004. [296773]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The amounts paid out and received for franchises subject to cap and collar arrangements is set out in the following table. Complete data for the year ending 31 March 2010 will be available in summer 2010:

£ million

	Revenue share entitlement/(revenue support liability) in March each year				
TOC	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Northern Rail	—	—	—	6.3	7.8
First Capital Connect	—	—	—	—	—
Stagecoach South Western (SSW)	—	—	—	—	1.5

£ million

TOC	*Revenue share entitlement/(revenue support liability) in March each year*				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
National Express East Anglia (NXEA)	—	—	(3.4)	—	(14.0)
First Greater Western	—	—	—	—	(47.8)
London Midland (LOM)	—	—	—	—	2.1
Virgin West Coast (VWC)	—	—	—	—	33.0

Railways: Penalty Fares

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will *(a)* extend the deadline of 17 November 2009 and *(b)* conduct a wider public consultation in respect of his consultation with the rail industry on penalty fares. [illegible]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: The documentation for the Department for Transport's consultation on the railway Penalty Fares Rules and Policy has today been published on the Department's website and the deadline for responses has been extended to 27 January 2010.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will publish a public consultation document setting out his proposals for the updating of the Penalty Fares Rules 2002. [illegible]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: The documentation relating to consultation on the railway Penalty Fares Rules and Penalty Fares Policy has today been published on the Department for Transport's website and the deadline for responses has been extended to 27 January 2010.

South London Railway Line

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Transport for London, *(b)* London Travel Watch, *(c)* the Mayor of London and *(d)* other organisations on the proposed withdrawal of passenger rail services from the South London Line. [illegible]

Chris Mole: This service change was consulted upon as part of the Department for Transport's May 2008 South Central Franchise Consultation. Transport for London, London TravelWatch and a number of other interested parties responded to this consultation. The proposed replacement of the London Victoria to London Bridge service was also consulted upon by Network Rail as part of the South London Line Route Utilisation Strategy (July 2007).

The withdrawal of the planned replacement London Victoria to Bellingham service was requested by the Mayor of London and Transport for London with funds directed instead toward an extended East London line service. As a condition of this arrangement, the Department required Transport for London and the Mayor to keep stakeholders informed.

West Coast Railway Line: Speed Limits

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether there are plans to improve the signalling on the West Coast Main Line to enable 135 mph running speeds. [296829]

Chris Mole: The Government have no plans for 135 miles per hour (mph) running. The West Coast Main Line was recently modernised and resignalled to permit significantly more 125 mph operations across the route. This has significantly reduced journey times and provided more frequent services for millions of passengers every year.

In January the Government established the High Speed Two company which, by the end of the year, will make a proposal for an entirely new line between London and the West Midlands and advise on the potential development of the high speed network to the north of England and Scotland.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress the Government Equalities Office has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287145]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office has a two-fold interest in the recommendations of the Glover Report; both internally with regard to its own procurement processes and externally, with regard to reflecting its recommendations within the legislative and non-legislative equality in procurement work we lead on.

On the former, we will act on Office of Government Commerce central guidance with regard to its implementation as it is rolled out.

On the latter, and in our role as equality lead across government, GEO considers that the recommendations of the Glover Report are compatible with the equality principles expressed around procurement and are engaged with OGC in progressing the initiatives.

WALES

Departmental Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff of his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297734]

Mr. Hain: One member of staff (less than 2 per cent. of the staff employed in the Wales Office) works from home twice weekly.

TREASURY

Business: Taxation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many small businesses *(a)* in Coventry and *(b)* in the UK have applied to defer their tax payments over the financial year under the Government's late payment scheme. [297388]

Mr. Timms: Since its introduction on 24 November 2008 the Business Payment Support Service has agreed over 220,300 times to pay arrangements in the UK with businesses to spread tax payments of about £3.9 billion. This has helped to support more than 150,000 businesses, the vast majority of which are small and medium sized, and employ an estimated 600,000 people. Over 90 per cent. of the value of arrangements is being paid on time without prompting.

Figures for Coventry show that nearly 840 arrangements have been agreed worth £18 million. HM Revenue and Customs does not have the specific number of small businesses as the service is open to all sizes of business and some businesses might have more than one agreement to spread payments of more than one type of tax.

Child Care Vouchers

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of parents receiving childcare vouchers from employers who pay income tax at the basic rate. [295940]

Mr. Timms: Published research, commissioned by HM Revenue and Customs in 2006, by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) found that 70 per cent. of the recipients of child care vouchers were basic rate taxpayers in late 2005. The report is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm

30 per cent. of child care voucher recipients were higher rate taxpayers, who account for 6 per cent. of parents. This group also receive a proportionally higher amount of the relief that goes to parents through Employer Supported Childcare due to their higher marginal tax rates.

Child Trust Fund: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the Child Trust Fund in each year between 2010-11 and 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [297324]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest projections for the Exchequer cost of the Child Trust Fund are given in the HMRC publication Child Trust Fund Statistical Report 2009, available via the HMRC website.

Economic Growth

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of economic growth in each of the next 12 months. [297173]

Ian Pearson: The Government set out its latest assessment of UK economic developments and prospects in Budget 2009 (HC 407). We will produce updated forecasts in the pre-Budget report as normal.

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has for the future level of gold reserves held by the Government. [297179]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the Government statement of March 2004. The position has not changed.

http://www.hm_treasury.gov.uk/press_23_04.htm

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on the level of gold reserves held by the Government. [297181]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has regular discussions on all aspects of reserve management.

Inflation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the projected inflation rate in each of the next 12 months. [297240]

Ian Pearson: The Budget 2009 forecast is for the consumer prices index (CPI) inflation rate to fall to 1 per cent. by the end of 2009, and remain below target in 2010. CPI inflation is forecast to return close to target during 2011 with the lagged effects of monetary policy easing continuing to feed through. Updated forecasts for inflation will be published later this autumn in the pre-Budget report, as is usual practice.

The Government do not publish a monthly forecast for the inflation rate.

Northern Rock

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of former shareholders of Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [297287]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Northern Rock: Compensation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 548W, on Northern Rock: compensation, if he will publish the submissions made by the Government to the Northern Rock independent valuer. [297396]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have made submissions to the Northern Rock independent valuer, as have other parties who will be affected by the outcome of the valuation exercise. It will be for the independent valuer to decide how far he publishes the contents of submissions he has received.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the time taken by the Prime Minister's Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society to report its conclusions. [297176]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society will report its conclusions to the Prime Minister when all options have been fully considered.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of delaying until April 2011 the proposed changes to the furnished holiday letting rules to undertake a consultation. [297308]

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to delaying the proposed revision of the Furnished Holiday Lettings rules until after April 2010 in order to consult with the tourism industry. [297684]

Mr. Timms: The Government announced the withdrawal of the furnished holiday lettings scheme from 2010 in Budget 2009 to allow those affected time to plan. This change was necessary because the furnished holiday lettings rules may not be compliant with EU law. It is therefore not appropriate to consult on whether a change should be made.

Draft legislation and an impact assessment will be published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report. The Government will be happy to receive comments at that time.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people were granted relief under the furnished holiday letting rules in respect of an occupancy rate claim of *(a)* 10, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 20 and *(d)* 25 weeks and over in the 2007-08 tax year; [297310]

(2) what taxation arrangements will apply to owners of *(a)* self-catering cottages and *(b)* bed and breakfast establishments following the proposed changes to the furnished holiday letting rules. [297312]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, to the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik).

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many owners of holiday cottages in the UK who are in the European Economic Area claimed tax relief under the furnished holiday letting rules in the 2007-08 tax year. [297313]

Mr. Timms: Non-UK residents are not eligible to claim tax relief under the furnished holiday lettings rules.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue accrued to the Exchequer under the furnished holiday letting rules in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of revenue under such rules in each year to 2012. [297315]

Mr. Timms: The estimated taxable profits from 1996-97 to 2007-08 for those who made a net profit on furnished holiday lettings is shown in the following table. Following the changes announced at Budget 2009, figures for tax years 2006-07 and 2007-08 include profits from furnished property lettings within the European Economic Area. The revenue accruing to the Exchequer would depend on the marginal rate of each taxpayer, which depends on their specific circumstances.

	Profits from FHL properties (£million)
1996-97	60
1997-98	60
1998-99	60
1999-2000	70
2000-01	70
2001-02	70
2002-03	80
2003-04	90
2004-05	90
2005-06	90
2006-07	100
2007/08	140

No estimates are available for later years.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of holiday cottages which will be affected by the proposed changes to the furnished holiday lettings rules. [297320]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Opik) on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to raise the occupancy threshold for eligibility rules in relation to furnished holiday lettings. [297629]

Mr. Timms: There are no plans to raise the occupancy threshold for eligibility in relation to the Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHL) rules. It was announced at Budget 2009 that the FHL rules would be repealed with effect from April 2010.

Draft legislation and an impact assessment will be published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report. The Government will be happy to receive comments at that time.

Taxation: South West

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* individuals, *(b)* businesses, *(c)* estates and *(d)* other bodies in (i) Cornwall and (ii) the Isles of Scilly have paid in tax in each year since 1997. [297276]

Mr. Timms: Information on individual taxpayers resident on the Isles of Scilly is not available as the sample size is too small to provide reliable estimates of income tax liability. Aggregate figures for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are shown in table 3.14 "Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority" available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm

It is not possible to provide reliable estimates for revenue received from other taxpayers at this geographical level for the following reasons:

a company's registered office may not reflect where economic activity occurs as companies may have business premises or trade anywhere;

VAT registration addresses may not match the location the trader operates from, for example a chain would only have one VAT registration covering all its branches; and

not all Inheritance Tax returns have a postcode, national estimates based on a sample of data.

Welfare Tax Credits

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median income of tax credit claimants was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [296511]

Mr. Timms: Tax credits are a carefully targeted system of support that provides the greatest help to families on the lowest incomes. Over 75 per cent. of tax credit support to in-work families in 2007-08 went to families earning under £20,000. Families on higher incomes also receive support, but this is reduced in value through tapering.

The targeted nature of tax credits is reflected in the following table, which shows the mean and median annual household income of in-work families benefiting from tax credits for each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

£

	Mean income	*Median income*
2003-04	23,689	23,828
2004-05	22,663	22,021
2005-06	22,868	22,228
2006-07	23,401	22,509
2007-08	23,599	22,643

This information is based on the annual household income used to calculate the tax credit award but excluding the income disregard. Detailed information on what type of income is taken into account for tax credit purposes is published in the leaflet "Child and Working Tax Credit—a guide", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/forms-and-leaflets/leaflets.htm

The same information for out of work families is not available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United States administration on proposals to close the Guantánamo Bay detention camp. [297092]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have long called for the closure of Guantánamo Bay and we have welcomed US President Barack Obama's commitment to close the facility. We recognise that there are important practical challenges to overcome in working for the closure of Guantánamo Bay, and these issues are discussed in the context of our ongoing dialogue with the US on a range of human rights, counter terrorism and international legal issues.

We will continue to discuss with the US government how best we can work with them, and our European partners, to achieve closure in a manner that ensures both human rights and potential security concerns posed in determining the disposition of the detainees are appropriately addressed.

Africa: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* South Sudan, *(c)* Uganda and *(d)* Democratic Republic of Congo on the current level of activity of the Lords Resistance Army. [296047]

Chris Bryant: The UK regularly discusses Lords Resistance Army (LRA) activity with the government of Uganda and stresses the importance of continued regional co-operation to deal with the threat and civilian protection from LRA attacks. At the recent UN General Assembly Ministerial week, my hon. Friend the Minister of State (Mr. Lewis), discussed the LRA with Ugandan Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa.

Our posts in Kampala, Juba, Khartoum, and Kinshasa continue to monitor the situation closely, and have raised the issue with other interested parties, including the UN and host governments.

In addition, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, Jack McConnell MSP, discussed LRA activity during his recent visit to Goma, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Burma

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart on EU sanctions on Burma; and if he will make a statement. [294541]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed this issue with his French counterpart at a meeting on 6 July 2009 during the Anglo-French Summit.

France has consistently given its support to calls for the immediate, unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, together with all other political prisoners in Burma, and agreed that the EU should respond with additional, targeted financial and other measures when the guilty verdict was delivered in the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi on 11 August 2009.

Most recently, the Foreign Secretary and the French Foreign Minister were present at the UN meeting on Burma chaired by the Secretary-General on 23 September 2009.

Colombia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 377W, on Colombia: foreign relations, on what occasions in the last 12 months the British Ambassador in Bogota has met the Colombian Foreign Minister to discuss *(a)* bilateral relations and *(b)* broader global issues. [297699]

Chris Bryant: Our ambassador in Bogota has met with the Colombian Foreign Minister on numerous occasions over the last 12 months. The most recent substantive meeting was on 22 October 2009.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 70W, on the Diplomatic Service: databases, for what reason his Department's online registration and crisis database does not break down registrations on an annual basis; and if he will make a statement. [297698]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s overseas online registration and crisis database, LOCATE, was designed primarily as a crisis tool. As such it breaks down registrations by countries, by regions or by districts—all of which enables FCO staff to assess the number of British nationals potentially affected in an emergency.

We are examining the costs and benefits of introducing a feature that enables the FCO to track the number of registrations on a yearly basis. The cost of implementation needs to be balanced against other crisis requirements.

Honduras: Politics and Government

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the political situation in Honduras; and if he will make a statement. [297485]

Chris Bryant: The UK condemned the removal of the democratically elected President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, in June. Since then, along with our EU partners, we have been actively supporting the regionally-led negotiation process to resolve the crisis, notably mediation efforts led by President Arias of Costa Rica and the Organisation of American States.

We are pleased that recent developments in the process signal a willingness by representatives of President Zelaya and the de facto government to come to a resolution ahead of the presidential elections later this month. We welcome, in particular, the signing of an accord on 30 October 2009 that could lead to the establishment of a power sharing government, and a return to democratic, constitutional order in the country. We understand that this agreement still needs to be considered by the Supreme Court and Congress in Tegucigalpa.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* security and *(b)* political situation in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [297625]

Chris Bryant: There has been a steady improvement of the security environment in Kosovo over the last 18 months and, although there have been minor security incidents during that period, Kosovo remains stable. Against this background, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Defence Ministers agreed in June this year to start transitioning NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) to a deterrent presence. EULEX, the EU Rule of Law Mission, providing policing, customs and justice sector support, has been operating at full operational capacity since April.

Since independence, Kosovo has made steady progress in establishing the legal and institutional framework set out in the Comprehensive Settlement Proposal of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari, including in relation to safeguarding the rights of Kosovo's Serb population, and other minority groups.

Kosovo's longer term sustainability and prosperity depends on its EU perspective. The Government fully support the proposals put forward by the European Commission in its study entitled 'Kosovo—Fulfilling its European Perspective', published on 14 October 2009. It is also vital that Kosovo's government addresses the concerns about governance and the rule of law expressed in the European Commission's Progress Report published on the same date.

Kosovo is currently preparing to hold municipal elections on 15 November 2009. Together with partners, we will be contributing to international monitoring of the elections.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the security situation in Pakistan. [297321]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: There has been a series of deadly terrorist attacks across Pakistan over the last few weeks. On 2 November 2009, a bomb exploded outside the National Bank in Rawalpindi, with initial reports of 22 people killed and over 40 injured. On 28 October 2009, at least 100 people were killed and over 200 injured in a car bomb attack in Peshawar, North West Frontier Province. Other recent targets have included the UN World Food Programme and the Pakistan Army general headquarters in Rawalpindi. These attacks have been linked to the launching of Pakistan Army operations against Pakistan Taliban militants in South Waziristan.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stated on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 300, we will continue to work closely with Pakistan to counter the threat to both Pakistan and the UK from violent extremism.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Pakistan on freedom of religion in that country; and if he will make a statement. [297215]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to urge the government of Pakistan to fully guarantee the fundamental rights of all Pakistani citizens, particularly the most vulnerable (women, minorities and children) as laid down in the constitution of Pakistan and in accordance with international standards.

The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief. With our EU partners, we have raised our concerns over the situation of religious minorities in Pakistan and the frequent abuse of the blasphemy legislation.

Shaker Aamer

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United States administration on Guantánamo detainee *(a)* Shaker Aamer and *(b)* Ahmed Belbacha. [297091]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On recent discussions with the US administration on Shaker Aamer, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 34W.

The Government's decision to make representation to the US for the release and return of former residents from Guantanamo Bay was limited to those with links to the UK as evidenced by their past lawful residence here. This does not include Ahmed Belbacha because, although he was present in the UK for a time, he was not here lawfully.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations he has made to the Sri Lankan government on the sexual abuse of children in camps for internally displaced persons in that country; [297641]

(2) what recent representations he has made to the Sri Lankan government on violence against women in camps for internally displaced persons in that country; [297463]

(3) what recent representations he has made to the Sri Lankan government on trends in the level of prostitution in camps for internally displaced persons in that country. [297462]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has consistently advocated for the treatment of all internally displaced persons (IDPs) held in camps in Sri Lanka to be in accordance with international standards. We continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to allow humanitarian agencies access to the camps to assess allegations of abuses such as violence against women, the sexual abuse of children and enforced prostitution.

The most effective way to ensure the safety of women and children displaced by the conflict is to restore freedom of movement to the IDP population. I visited Sri Lanka in early October and urged Government representatives to allow freedom of movement and abide by their own commitment to return 80 per cent. of the IDPs to their homes by the end of the year. On my return, I discussed these issues with the deputy high commissioner to Sri Lanka in London. I welcome the recent progress made by the Government of Sri Lanka in returning the IDPs currently held in camps to their areas of origin.

Since September 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £12.5 million of humanitarian aid to assist those displaced by the conflict in Sri Lanka. This has included support to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to undertake child protection campaigns in the IDP camps. A full breakdown of funding can be found at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/srilankacrisis

Turks and Caicos Islands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 9WS, on the Turks and Caicos Islands, when the *(a)* advisory group and *(b)* consultative forum last met; and if he will publish the minutes of each meeting. [297484]

Chris Bryant: The Advisory Council last met on 28 October 2009 and the Consultative Forum on 20 October 2009. The formal minutes of the Advisory Council are not made public, but the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Information Service issues a press release summarising the Council's discussions after each meeting. It is hoped that these will be available on the Turks and Caicos Islands Government website

www.tcgov.tc

shortly.

There is currently no transcript of the meetings of the Consultative Forum, but the proceedings are recorded and are broadcast live on local radio.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the promotion of micro-generation projects powered by *(a)* bio-diesel produced from used cooking oil and *(b)* other waste-derived products. [297710]

Joan Ruddock: The Government recognise the contribution which waste-derived products, including those from used cooking oil, can make to our renewable energy targets and to the effective management of waste. We will consider further the position of these types of production under the various financial incentives for renewable energy, and will make specific proposals on their use for heating in the forthcoming consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive.

Climate Change: EU Action

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the establishment of a European Commission Directorate General for energy and climate change; and if he will make a statement. [297502]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* The formation of DECC last year emphasised the Government's belief that energy and climate change policies are inextricably linked. This applies equally at an EU level where it is vital that these policy areas are taken forward together and that, in particular, all necessary links are made between policy makers in the European

Commission in order to deliver shared objectives. This is more important than the organisational structure of directorates general per se.

Departmental Recruitment

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many posts in his Department which were initially advertised six months or more ago are still *(a)* vacant and *(b)* unconfirmed. [294496]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The information on posts advertised six or more months ago is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Energy: Companies

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from *(a)* Landis and Gyr Group, *(b)* African Minerals (UK) Ltd., *(c)* Eastern Petroleum Corporation Ltd., *(d)* Gulf Keystone Petroleum (UK) Ltd., *(e)* Torftech Ltd. and *(f)* VAL Energy since 1 April 2008. [296798]

Joan Ruddock: Since the creation of DECC officials in the Department have met representatives from Landis and Gyr to discuss smart metering and demand side response. There have been bilateral meetings and the company has been represented, with other stakeholders, at presentations and workshops supporting smart meter policy and demand side development.

We have no records in DECC of any contact with African Minerals Ltd., Eastern Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd., Torftech Ltd. or VAL Energy.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to lay before Parliament for approval a draft of the proposed Renewables Obligation Order 2010. [297453]

Joan Ruddock: Amendments to the Renewables Obligation Order 2009 will be laid before Parliament for approval by February 2010.

Renewable Energy: EC Law

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the implications of the implementation of the EU Renewable Energy Directive for the operation of the renewables obligation in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [297454]

Joan Ruddock: DECC officials are currently scoping the implications of the Renewable Energy Directive across all areas. The directive includes sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids, and also sets a requirement on the European Commission to report on the need for sustainability criteria for solid biomass used for electricity and heat generation by the end of the year. At this point officials can begin the work to ensure that the Renewables Obligation is compliant.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the interaction between the Renewables Obligation and the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. [297668]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* As part of their work to implement the renewable energy directive, officials from DECC are working with officials from the Department for Transport to ensure that the renewables obligation and the renewable transport fuel obligation—as well as the feed-in tariffs and renewable heat incentive to be introduced in 2010 and 2011 respectively—provide a coherent financial incentive framework for the use of biomass-based technologies in delivering our renewable energy targets.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the Government's cross-departmental approach to the promotion of the use of renewable energy in transport. [297669]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on a wide variety of issues, through the normal course of Government business. In addition, since the publication of the Renewable Energy Strategy, and the creation of the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment within DECC, our officials meet frequently to discuss the delivery of the renewable energy directive. Cross-Government working groups are in place for the delivery of the renewable energy directive, for biofuels policy and for biofuels research.

JUSTICE

Coroner Service

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make provision for extra staff to be assigned to the office of HM Coroner for Wiltshire to process the outstanding inquests into the deaths of service personnel overseas. [297218]

Bridget Prentice: Operational matters such as the provision of staff and other resources are matters for local agreement between coroners and their local authorities. However, an exceptional burden has been created in the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner's district by the repatriation to RAF Lyneham since 1 April 2007 of service personnel who have, sadly, lost their lives in the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In recognition of this, central funding is being provided by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Defence. In 2007-08 £126,000 was provided centrally, and in 2008-09 a further £190,000 was provided. Estimated spend by the two Departments in the current financial year is £200,000. A recent request from Wiltshire county council for additional funding this year is currently being considered.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on each research project relating to personality disorder amongst offenders in each year since 1999; and what publications resulted from research *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded by his Department. [296529]

Claire Ward: The projects and costs of personality disorder research attributable to the Ministry of Justice and previously the Home Office are set out in the following tables.

A web reference is included where research reports have been published and are readily available.

Further information on DSPD research projects and publications is available at:

www.dspdprogramme.gov.uk

Personality disorder related research projects 2000-09

£

Project title	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Literature Review of Treatments for Personality Disorder	15,000	46,000	—	—	—	—	—
Evaluation Of The DSPD Assessment Process Evaluation (IMPALOX)	67,000	100,000	236,000	135,000	34,000	134,000	31,000
Fitting The Right People For The Job	—	55,000	27,000	27,000	—	—	—
Landscaped - Random Controlled Trials For Personality Disordered Patients	—	24,000	35,000	37,000	—	—	—
DSPD Lifer Study: Release, Resettlement & Recall	—	22,000	22,000	11,000	—	—	—
Prisoner Cohort Study	—	251,000	61,000	630,000	253,000	88,000	101,000
Random Controlled Trials Feasibility Study For Dialectical Behavioural Therapy	—	14,000	4,000	—	—	—	—
DSPD Lifer Study: DLP Study	—	—	90,000	22,000	—	—	—
The Provision Of The Functional Link Between Risk & Personality Disorder	—	—	18,000	36,000	18,000	—	—
Assessment Of DSPD In Learning Difficulties Population	—	—	22,000	90,000	—	—	—
Links Between Juvenile Sexual Offending & DSPD - Young Abusers Project (YAP)	—	—	13,000	42,000	38,000	35,000	—
Developmental Pathways Of Psychopathic Tendencies In Children	—	—	—	30,000	24,000	18,000	—
A Longitudinal Study of Clinical, Genetic & Environmental Risk Factors for Juvenile Anti-Social Personality Disorder in a High Risk Group	—	—	—	37,000	27,000	10,000	—
Pilot Case Control Study of an Intensive Multi Modal Cognitive Behavioural Programme for Adolescent Offenders in Secure Care	—	—	—	24,000	24,000	24,000	—
Measuring Changes in Psychopathic Characteristics	—	—	—	22,000	55,000	88,000	55,000
A Pilot Study of A New Intervention for Hard to Treat Children with Conduct Disorder	—	—	—	7,000	14,000	14,000	12,000
Evaluation of A Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in the Personality Disorder Service at Ashworth Hospital	—	—	—	—	90,000	57,000	54,000
Inclusion for DSPD: Evaluating Assessment & Treatment (IDEA)	—	—	—	—	—	163,000	343,000
CRACMS Evaluation	—	—	—	—	—	25,000	—
Costs and Outcomes of DSPD Services (CODES)	—	—	—	—	—	—	35,000
O & M Study - MEMOS	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,000
Neurobiological Aetiology of Violence	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,000
Feasibility of using neural networks in risk assessment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	82,000	512,000	528,000	1,150,000	577,000	656,000	673,000

£

Project title	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*	*Publication*	*Link*
Literature Review of Treatments for Personality Disorder	—	—	—	61,000	published	http://www.dspdprogramme.gov.uk/publications.html
Evaluation of the DSPD Assessment Process Evaluation (IMPALOX)	4,000	—	—	741,000	published	http://www.dspdprogramme.gov.uk/publications.html

£

Project title	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total	Publication	Link
Fitting The Right People For The Job	—	—	—	109,000	published	http://www.dspdprogramme.gov.uk/publications.html
Landscaped - Random Controlled Trials For Personality Disordered Patients	—	—	—	96,000	published	http://www.nfmhp.org.uk/
DSPD Lifer Study: Release, Resettlement & Recall	—	—	—	55,000	results fed into publications in The British Journal of Psychiatry, May 2007, Vol.190	
Prisoner Cohort Study	—	—	—	1,384,000	published	http://www.dspdprogramme.gov.uk/publications.html
Random Controlled Trials Feasibility Study For Dialectical Behavioural Therapy	—	—	—	18,000	published	http://www.dspdprogramme.gov.uk/publications.html
DSPD Lifer Study: DLP Study	—	—	—	112,000	published	http://www.dspdprogramme.gov.uk/publications.html
The Provision Of The Functional Link Between Risk & Personality Disorder	—	—	—	72,000	results fed into publications in The British Journal of Psychiatry, May 2007, Vol.190	
Assessment Of DSPD In Learning Difficulties Population	—	—	—	112,000	published	numerous publications resulting from this work http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/psychology/staff/2067.asp
Links Between Juvenile Sexual Offending & DSPD - Young Abusers Project (YAP)	—	—	—	128,000	published	http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4140126
Developmental Pathways Of Psychopathic Tendencies In Children	—	—	—	72,000	published	numerous published articles, including one by Essi Viding, Paul J. Frick and Robert Plomin in Supplement 49 (May 2007, Vol.190) of the British Journal of Psychiatry.
A Longitudinal Study of Clinical, Genetic & Environmental Risk Factors for Juvenile Anti-Social Personality Disorder in a High Risk Group	—	—	—	74,000	published	http://www.nfmhp.org.uk/
Pilot Case Control Study of an Intensive Multi Modal Cognitive Behavioural Programme for Adolescent Offenders in Secure Care	—	—	—	72,000	published	http://www.nfmhp.org.uk/
Measuring Changes in Psychopathic Characteristics	—	—	—	220,000	results fed into publications in The British Journal of Psychiatry, May 2007, Vol.190, Supplement 49	
A Pilot Study of A New Intervention for Hard to Treat Children with Conduct Disorder	—	—	—	47,000	published	http://www.nfmhp.org.uk/
Evaluation of A Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in the Personality Disorder Service at Ashworth Hospital	54,000	64,000	—	319,000	publication expected 2010	
Inclusion for DSPD: Evaluating Assessment & Treatment (IDEA)	343,000	252,000	237,000	1,338,000	project ongoing	
CRACMS Evaluation	—	—	38,000	63,000	project ongoing	
Costs and Outcomes of DSPD Services (CODES)	2,000	—	—	37,000	project ongoing	
O & M Study - MEMOS	120,000	140,000	40,000	330,000	project ongoing	
Neurobiological Aetiology of Violence	50,000	50,000	37,000	149,000	publication expected 2010	
Feasibility of using neural networks in risk assessment	—	38,000	38,000	76,000	publication expected 2010	
Total	573,000	544,000	390,000	5,685,000		

Notes:

1. The figures shown are based on administrative data. Although care has been taken in compiling the figures a degree of inaccuracy is inherent in all administrative recording systems.
2. There is no information available for 1999-2000.
3. It was not possible to check all publications in the time available. Some research projects have resulted in a considerable number of related publications in academic journals.
4. In some cases projects were co-funded with other departments. The data presented reflect only Ministry of Justice (or previously Home Office) costs.
5. All figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

National Archives

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of recent staff re-organisations at junior levels at the National Archives on the services the Archives provide to the public; and if he will make a statement. [297552]

Mr. Wills: The National Archives has recently implemented a package of measures to make the savings required to ensure that they can live within their budget. In order to make these savings, the number of posts in the organisation has been reduced by 10 per cent., with half of these savings made through freezing vacancies, and the rest through restructuring to reduce the levels of management and administrative posts. This re-organisation has enabled the National Archives to make savings in back office functions and avoid reducing the quality of its services to the public, as seen in the continued 90 per cent. public satisfaction rates for its onsite services over the last two quarters. The National Archives has also increased by one the number of specialist posts providing expert support to researchers. There have been no compulsory redundancies, and the savings have been applied at senior as well as junior levels. I continue to receive regular reports from the National Archives regarding the provision of all its public services. Based on this, I am assured the restructuring will enable the National Archives to continue to meet its running costs and maintain the quality of its services.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the recent refurbishment of reading rooms at the National Archives; and what proportion of the cost was met from *(a)* Exchequer and *(b)* grant funding. [297553]

Mr. Wills: The National Archives' public reading rooms were refurbished in 2008 in part to accommodate the services previously offered at the Family Records Centre, the relocation of which brought all services together under one roof and saved the National Archives over £1 million per year in the rent of a separate building. The cost of the refurbishment was £2.5 million, all of which was met from the Exchequer. The National Archives did not receive any additional funding for this project from the Exchequer above their existing budget.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what comprehensive *(a)* race equality and *(b)* gender equality assessments were undertaken as part of the most recent restructuring exercise at the National Archives. [297574]

Mr. Wills: Management at the National Archives produced a comprehensive equality impact assessment and staffing profile in preparation for the public and trade union consultation launched on 29 June 2009. This contained information on part-time workers, gender, disability and ethnic origin and was shared with the trade unions. The National Archives continues to update the trade unions with monthly meetings, and continues to provide openly the information it collects.

National Archives: Pay

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appointments to posts at the National Archives were made at a starting salary above the advertised *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum for the posts in each of the last three years. [297519]

Mr. Wills: Since February 2008, the National Archives, out of 245 appointments, has appointed 20 staff at a starting salary above the advertised minimum and five above the advertised maximum salary bands. The National Archives only retains data relating to appointments for 18 months.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the National Archives spent on staff salaries in each of the last three years. [297522]

Mr. Wills: Cost of staff salaries for each of the last three years is as follows:

	£
2006-07	20,769,000
2007-08	23,769,000
2008-09	26,537,000

These figures are cash amounts for each year, and include contractors and agency staff employed on externally funded projects, as well as cover for permanent staff.

The figures for 2006-07 include costs for the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) for the second half of the financial year. OPSI staff joined the National Archives' payroll on 1 November 2006.

The figures for 2007-08 include OPSI for the full year, and staff from the Statute Law Database (SLD) who joined the National Archives on 12 December 2008.

The figures for 2008-09 include OPSI, SLD and externally funded project staff for Digital Continuity and the Civil Pages project.

Offences Against Children: Prosecutions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on offences against children: convictions, how many people were prosecuted for sexual offences against persons under the age of 18 years in 2008; and how many such prosecutions resulted in a conviction. [295713]

Claire Ward: Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

The Ministry of Justice had pre-announced, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, that the following publications would be released in November 2009:

Criminal statistics 2008

Sentencing statistics 2008 (annual publication)

Women and the criminal justice system

Since announcing these dates, data quality issues were encountered. To allow sufficient time to resolve these issues all three publications were delayed until

January 2010. An update on the delay of these statistical publications was released on the Ministry of Justice website on 9 October:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/announcement081009a.htm

Office of the Public Guardian

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to move the premises of the Office of the Public Guardian from Archway Tower; and if he will make a statement. [297157]

Bridget Prentice: As part of its programme of change and improvement, the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) has over the past 12 months taken a phased approach to moving functions out of London. In doing so it has sought to capitalise on existing Ministry of Justice buildings and staff where possible.

The first office outside London opened in Birmingham in the spring of this year. A second office, in Nottingham, has recently commenced operation and functions will continue to migrate there over the next four months.

No further decisions as to timing and location of future moves have been taken. OPG aims to have reduced its presence in London to a necessary minimum over the next two to three years.

The OPG engages actively with staff and trade unions regarding its change plans. Appropriate impact assessments are made. Staff impact is managed in line with the Ministry of Justice Managing Organisational Change Framework.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were released on *(a)* temporary release licence, *(b)* home detention curfew, *(c)* early release and *(d)* juvenile temporary release in each of the last three years; [296766]

(2) how many people were released from prison on *(a)* resettlement day release, *(b)* resettlement overnight release, *(c)* placements with community service volunteers, *(d)* placements with the Prince's Trust, *(e)* childcare resettlement leave, *(f)* special purpose licence, *(g)* compassionate and *(h)* marriage of the [illegible]der in 2008. [illegible]]

Maria Eagle: Figures on the number of releases from prison establishments on temporary licence (ROTL) and Home Detention Curfew (HDC) are published annually in Offender Management Caseload Statistics. Copies are in the House of Commons Libraries and on the MoJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Data on the categories of ROTL are not recorded precisely in the form specified in the question. Prisoners may be released on temporary licence on more than one occasion. The statistics relate to the number of licences granted rather than the number of prisoners released. The recorded categories are shown in the following table.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
All licences	400,238	441,167	439,294
Special Purpose	10,396	11,127	12,862
Carer	940	1,603	1,999
Deaths	304	289	305
Family needs	467	409	337
Legal	641	581	608
Medical	8,044	8,245	9,613
Resettlement Day Release	385,532	422,813	414,512
Accommodation	217	282	241
Family ties	18,146	21,666	22,350
Religious Service	2,718	2,567	3,443
Training and education	59,251	63,953	59,540
Working out	250,971	278,406	272,338
Other resettlement	54,229	55,939	56,600
Childcare Resettlement	497	313	320
Resettlement Overnight Release	3,813	6,914	11,599

Note:
The total for 2008 includes one uncategorised ROTL

The number of licences for under 18s released on ROTL from prison, which is a subset of the totals from the table, in 2006 was 1,180, in 2007 was 805 and in 2008 was 1,499.

The number of releases on HDC, one form of early release, are shown in the following table.

	Number released on HDC
2006	13,666
2007	11,428
2008	11,721

Figures on the number of releases on End of Custody Licence (ECL), another form of early release, are published monthly on the MoJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

ECL was introduced on the 29 of June 2007. Between the start of the scheme and 31 December 2007, 16,197 prisoners were released on ECL. In 2008, 31,318 prisoners were released. Between 1 January and 30 September 2009, 22,362 prisoners were released on ECL.

All these figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Secure Accommodation: Young Offender Institutions

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of placing remanded children in secure training centres was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what proportion of that cost was met by the Youth Justice Board. [296964]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board calculates annual figures for the cost of places in the under-18 secure estate. As at 1 April 2009, the average cost of placing a young person remanded to custody in a secure training centre was £209,000 per annum (excluding VAT). The Youth Justice Board contributes two thirds of the cost and the young person's home local authority contributes the remaining third plus an administrative fee.

The average cost of placing a remanded young person in a secure training centre is higher than for sentenced young people due to a differential in the economic cost of delivering the two regimes. The additional cost also reflects the fact that remanded young people have to be accommodated separately from sentenced trainees.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Youth Justice Board pays per person for a place in *(a)* a secure training centre, *(b)* a young offenders institution and *(c)* a local authority secure children's home. [296967]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board calculates annual figures for the cost of places in the three types of establishment in the under-18 secure estate. As at 1 April 2009, these were as follows:

	Average annual cost per place (£000)
Secure children's home	215
Secure training centre	160
Young offender institution	60

Note:
These figures are the average costs per place and include places for both remanded and sentenced young people. VAT is not included within these figures.

Young Offenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many 10 to 12 year-olds were convicted of each category of criminal offence in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [296961]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of 10 to 12-year-olds found guilty at all courts in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 (latest available), broken down by offence type, can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Number of defendants aged 10 to 12 found guilty at all courts for all offences, broken down by offence type, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

Offence type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Violence against the person	73	96	114	130	151	177	174	160	168	156	142
Sexual offences	16	11	20	10	21	27	10	22	23	20	26
Burglary	240	314	356	313	[illegible]21	336	264	279	283	233	217
Robbery	68	64	78	78	129	113	118	134	89	97	141
Theft and handling stolen goods	562	840	951	936	914	767	719	715	685	623	710
Fraud and forgery	2	3	16	13	8	17	4	10	12	8	11
Criminal damage	101	137	218	202	231	234	218	212	230	192	226
Drug offences	2	6	12	12	33	26	32	31	29	23	22
Other indictable offences	39	47	70	79	72	79	77	68	65	67	59
Indictable motoring offences	3	1	7	4	5	6	4	3	1	0	3
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	384	598	881	1,051	1,129	1,048	1,092	1,173	1,256	1,237	1,237
Summary motoring offences	36	52	61	47	72	56	74	67	54	62	63
All offences	1,526	2,169	2,784	2,875	3,086	2,886	2,786	2,874	2,895	2,718	2,857

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Young People: Remand in Custody

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children have been placed in each secure training centre by local authorities whilst on remand in each month in the last two years. [296965]

Maria Eagle: The decision as to whether to remand a young person under 18 to custody is entirely for the courts. The Youth Justice Board has the authority to place young people into custody, including secure training centres, on behalf of the Secretary of State. The table sets out the number of occasions on which young people have been remanded to secure training centres between September 2007 and August 2009.

The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board and are drawn from administrative computer systems. As with any large scale recording system, the data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	Secure training centre			
	Hassockfield	*Medway*	*Oakhill*	*Rainsbrook*
September 2007	1	7	1	7
October 2007	3	4	2	5
November 2007	7	5	6	3
December 2007	8	5	2	6
January 2008	6	3	13	7
February 2008	4	5	7	14
March 2008	8	4	0	8
April 2008	3	5	0	4
May 2008	5	4	7	2
June 2008	4	3	3	7
July 2008	5	8	9	7
August 2008	9	6	12	8
September 2008	5	4	6	10
October 2008	7	5	16	9
November 2008	4	4	11	10
December 2008	4	3	7	3
January 2009	6	6	18	8
February 2009	3	3	15	9
March 2009	7	2	11	12
April 2009	7	2	9	9
May 2009	11	7	9	10
June 2009	7	10	11	12
July 2009	10	2	13	9
August 2008	9	2	14	4

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many legal abortions for women in each age group were performed on each statutory ground in each year since 1979; and what the age standardised rate of legal abortions performed on each statutory ground was in each of those years. [295899]

Gillian Merron: The information has been placed in the Library.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Safety

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient safety incidents in accident and emergency departments in England were reported to the National Patient Safety Agency in each year since 1997. [297303]

Ann Keen: The number of patient safety incidents in accident and emergency (A&E) departments in England that have been reported to the National Patient Safety Agency since the reporting system commenced in 2003 is given in the following table. There was no central reporting system in place prior to 2003.

England

	A&E incidents	*All incidents*	*A&E as a percentage of all*
2003	15	153	10
2004	1,706	42,880	4
2005	13,742	403,610	3
2006	20,499	659,035	3
2007	27,834	834,764	3
2008	31,236	906,401	3
2009[1]	32,017	867,675	4
Total	127,049	3,714,518	3

[1] To mid October

Notes:

Not all trusts were connected prior to January 2005.

Source:

Reporting and Learning System

Airedale Hospital: Cancer

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether digital mammography equipment is available on site at *(a)* Airedale Hospital and *(b)* Burnley General Hospital; [297017]

(2) what services are provided at *(a)* Airedale Hospital and *(b)* Burnley General Hospital for patients who develop lymphoedema. [297018]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally and can instead be obtained direct from the Airedale NHS Trust and the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Blackburn Royal Infirmary: PFI

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what percentage of its income the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust spent on servicing the Royal Blackburn Infirmary private finance initiative project in 2008. [297084]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust spent £13.57 million on the Royal Blackburn Infirmary private finance initiative project in financial year 2008-09. This equates to 4.3 per cent. against turnover for that year.

Cancer: Health Services

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the NHS spent on children's cancer care in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997; [297193]

(2) how much the NHS spent on cancer care in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [297196]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected in the requested format.

2003-04 was the first year programme budgeting data were collected. Data on children's cancer care are not available. Estimated cancer expenditure from 2003-04 to 2007-08, for England and for primary care trusts (PCTs) within the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is provided in the following tables.

Estimated England level spend on cancer and tumours 2003-04 to 2007-08: Estimated gross England level expenditure on all cancer and tumours

	£000
2003-04	3,303,750
2004-05	3,773,203
2005-06	4,302,656
2006-07	4,352,462
2007-08	4,964,282

North East SHA expenditure on cancer and tumours and expenditure on cancer and tumours for PCTs within North East SHA 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

	Expenditure on all cancer and tumours on own population				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
County Durham PCT	32,591	38,635	43,825	50,578	44,017
Darlington PCT	6,959	6,580	7,433	8,299	8,539
Gateshead PCT	12,354	18,250	22,688	22,045	18,185
Hartlepool PCT	6,617	5,852	7,845	8,824	9,623
Middlesbrough PCT	14,378	13,390	11,904	13,450	16,402
Newcastle PCT	20,449	27,009	27,950	23,427	25,658
North Tyneside PCT	12,806	15,444	17,085	15,103	16,187
Northumberland Care Trust	19,532	20,247	25,364	22,637	24,059
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	11,096	11,066	12,109	10,173	14,132
South Tyneside PCT	9,930	12,755	20,133	17,523	16,940
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	8,818	11,048	13,043	13,276	16,278
Sunderland Teaching PCT	14,918	19,730	20,000	23,126	27,665
North East SHA	170,438	200,067	229,459	220,464	237,094

Notes:

1. The programme budgeting data collection is complex—expenditure figures are therefore presented as 'best estimates'.
2. Working with the national health service, we continue to refine and improve the data collection methodology. This, along with refinements to underlying data sources, makes like-for-like comparisons between years difficult.
3. Disease specific expenditure will not include expenditure on prevention, or general practitioner expenditure, but will include prescribing expenditure.
4. England level expenditure is estimated gross expenditure, and includes core Department of Health, SHA and some Special Health Authority expenditure as well as PCTs.
5. SHA level expenditure is the combined expenditure of each PCT within the SHA area. PCT expenditure is estimated expenditure on PCTs own population.

Sources:

Department of Health Resource Accounts

PCT Financial Programme Budgeting Returns. Data for 2004-05 to 2007-08 are Published on the Department of Health website

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average time elapsing from diagnosis to start of treatment for cancer patients resident in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [297205]

Ann Keen: Statistics on average waiting times between diagnosis and first treatment for cancer are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis of cancer to first cancer treatment was introduced for all patients from December 2005. Statistics showing overall performance are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website.

The following table shows performance against this standard for quarter 1 of 2009-10 (April-June 2009) for healthcare providers in the North East Strategic Health Authority area.

Performance of healthcare providers in NHS North East area against the cancer waiting times standard of a maximum of 31 days from diagnosis of cancer to first cancer treatment for quarter 1 of 2009-10.

Healthcare provider	*Percentage of patients receiving first cancer treatment within 31 days of cancer diagnosis*
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	100
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	98.7
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	99.2
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	98.2
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	99.7
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	98.6
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	98.8
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	99.5
All providers in NHS North East area	98.8

Source:

Department of Health Cancer Waiting Times Statistics.

For the same period, the reported performance for England was 98.1 per cent.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1338W, on dental services, what information his Department holds on the criteria used by dental practices to determine appropriate clinical intervals. [illegible]

Ann Keen: Historically dentists have tended to recall patients every six months. However guidance issued in 2004 by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence stated that dentists should have more flexible recall intervals, based on each patient's clinical needs, and that orally healthy adults might not need a check-up more than once every two years. Recalling healthy patients at shorter intervals than is clinically needed does not benefit these patients, and potentially blocks access to the national health service for others.

Departmental Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees of his Department have been convicted of an offence of fraud in each of the last 10 years. [297040]

Phil Hope: Since 2006 no individual has been convicted of fraud while working for the Department.

Prior to 2006 records were not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate costs to search individual records.

Departmental Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297730]

Phil Hope: The Department operates a homeworking scheme under which a person's home is formally designated as their regular place of work for some or all of the working week. Arrangements to work from home are made by local managers. Records are not kept centrally about this.

Homeworking is one of a number of arrangements that the Department provides to promote flexible working, including part-time working, flexitime schemes, job sharing, part year appointments, unpaid leave, and compressing the working week into less than five days. The use of information technology also allows many staff to work from home on an occasional basis.

Departmental Internet

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department operates any Twitter accounts. [297720]

Phil Hope: The Department owns five Twitter accounts:

@dhgovuk

@NHSChoices

@careandsupport

@change4life

@nhscommslink

Two of these accounts are experimental and under review:

@nhscommslink and

@change4life.

The remaining accounts are used for promoting information updates, or signposting sources of information on government websites.

East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many specialist neuromuscular physiotherapists are available to patients within the area covered by the East Kent Hospitals Trust; [296724]

(2) what hydrotherapy facilities are available to patients within the area covered by the East Kent Hospitals Trust. [296725]

Ann Keen: The information requested is a matter for East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Mr. Nicholas Wells, chair of East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, informing him of the hon. Member's inquiries. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what scientific papers he has considered in respect of animal studies that document the effect of the consumption of genetically modified food on changes in the kidney, pancreas and spleen; [297101]

(2) what recent international research he has evaluated on the effect on the consumption of genetically modified food on human health, with particular reference to the effects on *(a)* fertility, *(b)* immune dysregulation, *(c)* accelerated ageing, *(d)* gene disruption relating to cholesterol synthesis, *(e)* cell signalling, *(f)* protein formation *(g)* insulin regulation and *(h)* changes in the liver, kidney, spleen and gastrointestinal system. [297102]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency has sought advice from the Advisory Committee on Novel Food and Processes (ACNFP) regarding what conclusions may be drawn from the following publications:

Malatesta et al., (2008), Histochem Cell Biol, 130, pp967-977

Kilic and Akay, (2008), Food and Chemical Toxicology, 46, pp1164-1170

Finamore et al., (2008), J Agric Food Chem. DOI: 10.1021/jf802059w

Lelimirov et al., (2008), Forschungsberichte der Sektion IV, Band 3/2008, published by the Austrian Ministry of Health.

The ACNFP considered these publications at its meetings in November 2008 and February 2009, and advised that it was not possible to draw any conclusions about cause and effect in these publications or to assess the significance of these reports for human health. The minutes of these meetings are available on the ACNFP website at:

www.acnfp.gov.uk/meetings/acnfpmeet08/acnfpmeet20nov08/acnfpmin20nov08

and

www.acnfp.gov.uk/meetings/acnfpmeet09/acnfpfeb09/acnfpmin190209

Health Professions: Training

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* funding for (i) fees and (ii) expenses and *(b)* other assistance his Department has provided to each Royal College or Society for development of e-learning for health services; and if he will make a statement; [296755]

(2) how much funding his Department plans to provide to each Royal College or Society in each of the next three financial years for development of e-learning for health services. [296756]

Ann Keen: The Department does not provide funding to Royal Colleges or any society for the development of e-learning for health services. The Department's e-Learning for healthcare programme works in partnership with the Royal Colleges and societies, as well as other organisations, and they are eligible to have their expenses covered by the Department.

Health Services: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were registered as working in each primary care trust serving Lancashire and their predecessors in (i) 1997 and (ii) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [296834]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of doctors and qualified nursing staff working at the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT), as at 30 September 2002 and 2008.

All doctors and qualified nursing staff at the Central Lancashire PCT, as at 30 September each year

	Numbers (headcount)	
	2002	*2008*
All doctors[1]	282	327
All general practitioners (GP)	266	285
Hospital Community Health Services (HCHS) medical and dental staff	16	42
All qualified nursing staff	794	937
Qualified HCHS nursing staff	630	784
GP practice nurses	164	153

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part-time in hospitals.

Note:

Central Lancashire PCT was formed on 1 October 2006, following the merger of the Preston, Chorley and Ribble and West Lancashire PCTs.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care.

Health: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure consistency in relation to the choice of providers offered in respect of NHS health checks by primary care trusts; [297296]

(2) which primary care trusts are providing vascular checks in community pharmacy settings to ensure that they are accessible when other services may not be available, as referred to on page 18 of his Department's document, Putting prevention first, Vascular Checks: risk assessment and management: next steps guidance for primary care trusts; what assessment he has made of the accessibility of vascular checks in general practice settings to those in full-time employment; and if he will make a statement. [297370]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts to commission the necessary services, as they are best placed to understand the needs of their local population. Currently, no data are collected centrally by the Department on which settings primary care trusts (PCTs) are commissioning NHS Health Checks to take place in or on the accessibility of NHS Health Checks in general practitioner practices. The Pharmacy Services Negotiating Committee has however recently undertaken a survey of Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs). Approximately two thirds of LPCs replied to the survey. The results showed that, of those primary care trusts that responded, 54 per cent. are either using or intending to use community pharmacy at this stage to help deliver their NHS Health Check programmes.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's second phase of economic modelling for vascular checks which used a pharmacy setting as its basis, as referred to on page 15 of his Department's document, Putting prevention first, Vascular Checks: risk assessment and management: next steps guidance for primary care trusts. [297371]

Ann Keen: The Impact Assessment for the NHS Health Check programme incorporates the results of the Department's second phase of economic modelling which took into account pharmacy as a setting for delivering the risk assessment element of the check. A copy of the Impact Assessment has been placed in the Library.

Hydrotherapy Pools

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hydrotherapy pools are available for treatment in each primary care trust in England. [297585]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect data centrally on the number of hydrotherapy treatment pools available in each primary care trust in England.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days were recorded for patients aged under 16 years old on adult psychiatric wards in each quarter of the last three years. [296893]

Phil Hope: The following table gives figures for the number of bed days for children on child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) wards and for children aged under 16 and 16-17 on adult mental health wards.

	Quarter	*Bed days-under 18s on CAMHS ward*	*Bed days-under 16s on adult ward*	*Bed days-16/17s on adult ward*
2006-07	1	34,609	75	4,697
	2	28,171	25	4,780
	3	34,430	38	4,679
	4	39,409	53	4,511
2007-08	1	38,359	81	3,954
	2	37,935	112	3,893
	3	41,184	49	4,255
	4	40,072	133	4,926
2008-09	1	37,003	16	4,019
	2	36,973	4	3,713
	3	39,534	0	2,854
	4	42,065	3	3,101

Notes:

1. Data on this issue were first collected in 2005-06 but data up until Quarter 3 of 2005-06 are not comparable with the data for Quarter 4 2005-06 onwards as information was collected on a different basis.
2. For 2008-09 onwards it is not mandatory for NHS foundation trusts to submit returns but they may do so on a voluntary basis.

NHS: Sick Leave

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many working days were lost through employee sickness in the National Health Service in each strategic health authority area in each of the last five years. [297104]

Ann Keen: After the 2005 report, the sickness absence survey was discontinued. Electronic copies of earlier records are not available. Results of the last two surveys on sickness absence from 2004 and 2005 have been placed in the Library.

NHS: Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has commissioned a training programme for clinicians to enhance the quality of discussion with patients on treatments not routinely funded on the NHS, as recommended by his Department's National Cancer Director in his November 2008 report on improving access to medicines for NHS patients. [297420]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Research UK Sussex Psychosocial Oncology Group has been commissioned to take forward the recommendation, by Professor Mike Richards (National Cancer Director), that the Department should commission a training programme for clinicians to enhance the quality of discussion with patients on treatments not routinely funded on the national health service.

Nurses: Students

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student nurses are working in Lancashire Primary Care Trust; and what the average number of student nurses working in a primary care trust was in the latest period for which figures are available. [296754]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, this information might be available direct from the primary care trusts that serve the Lancashire area.

Pain

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been diagnosed with complex regional pain syndrome in each of the last five years. [297220]

Ann Keen: The information requested on the number of males and females diagnosed with complex regional pain syndrome in the national health service is not collected. The NHS Information Centre collects data on the number of patients admitted in England NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector with complex regional pain type II (previously known as causalgia). The information is in the following table.

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] where the primary or secondary diagnosis was Causalgia (G56.4) by gender, 2004-05 to 2008-09, activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Financial year	*Male*	*Female*
2008-09	62	99
2007-08	38	87
2006-07	26	72
2005-06	36	57
2004-05	40	70

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. It should be noted that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Patients' Rights

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will encourage the National Clinical Audit and Patients' Outcomes programme to conduct an audit of dignity for patients in hospital and other care settings. [296993]

Ann Keen: The National Clinical Audit Advisory Group, which advises the Department on the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes programme (NCAPOP), has set out advice on the criteria to be used to prioritise topics for new national clinical audits. This is available from the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/NCAAG/index.htm

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership, which manages the contracts for the NCAPOP, has recently issued an invitation to tender for a one-year development project designed to develop a methodology to underpin a future national audit of food and nutrition in health and social care, an important aspect of dignity.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1552-7W, on prostate cancer staff, which cancer networks *(a)* have met and *(b)* are on target to meet the milestones set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on improving outcomes. [297197]

Ann Keen: The majority of cancer networks have now fully implemented the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancer.

Four networks are yet to implement the guidance. These networks are: Mount Vernon Cancer Network; Greater Manchester and Cheshire Cancer Network; Surrey West Sussex and Hampshire Cancer Network and Greater Midlands Cancer Network.

Mount Vernon Cancer Network is expected to implement the IOG by the end of 2009, Greater Manchester and Cheshire Cancer Network by September 2010 and Surrey West Sussex and Hampshire Cancer Network by March 2010. Greater Midlands Cancer Network is preparing an action plan which is expected by the end of 2009.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has made for informing GP surgeries of the dates upon which their allocation of swine influenza vaccine will be received; and if he will make a statement. [297111]

Gillian Merron: In the letter of 15 October 2009 from the Chief Medical Officer to all general practitioners (GPs), a copy of which has been placed in the Library, the arrangements for checking delivery dates of swine flu vaccine were clearly identified. GPs were informed that they would be able to find out the expected day of delivery of their first supplies of swine flu vaccine by checking with their primary care trust immunisation co-ordinator or by consulting the website themselves at:

www.immform.dh.gov.uk

Tuberculosis: Health Services

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of primary care trusts in England are part of a local multi-disciplinary clinical network for tuberculosis; [297304]

(2) what steps the NHS takes to assign consultants with appropriate experience to the care of patients with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. [297305]

Gillian Merron: The organisation of local national health service services and ensuring appropriate experience of consultants treating multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), and the organisation of local multi-disciplinary networks is a matter for local NHS management.

In recognising that many TB clinicians will not have experienced treating an MDR case, the Department funded the British Thoracic Society (BTS) initially to form a national advice network to offer advice and share good practice on treating MDR cases. We also recommend in the TB Toolkit for commissioners and service providers published in June 2007 that MDR-TB cases be discussed within this group and advice should be sought on a regular basis on continuing patient management.

Advice is provided through a virtual community of TB experts, including chest physicians, infectious disease physicians, paediatricians, public health physicians, a specialist nurse and four directors of the health protection agency laboratories where drug sensitivity for tuberculosis is undertaken (Newcastle, Birmingham, Cardiff and London).

In forming the advice network, The BTS extended the remit to include all aspects of TB, and not just MDR-TB. The TB Toolkit also recommends that in low incidence areas where fewer that 10 cases per year are seen for case management to be discussed on a multidisciplinary team basis. The BTS network is available to anyone that wishes to access it.

The all party parliamentary group on Global TB published the results of two surveys of TB nursing staff and TB consultants in July 2009. They found that 68 per cent. of the respondents from TB consultants indicate that the acute trusts they work for is part of a TB network.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial arrangements were in place for the seeding of CDC Group plc's sub-Saharan power assets in the new $750 million infrastructure fund announced by his Department on 6 October 2009; and whether a profit share was earned by the private equity company Actis for this transaction. [297549]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* On 6 October 2009, Actis announced a new £750 million infrastructure fund. CDC contributed a number of sub-Saharan African assets to this fund. The transfer value of these assets was established by agreement between CDC and Actis, with independent valuation advice provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The specific information requested is subject to commercial confidentiality provisions in the various legal agreements.

Carried interest or profit share will be payable to the fund manager, pursuant to the contractual obligation between Actis and CDC.

Tanzania: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian aid was provided by the Government to Tanzania in each of the last five years for which figures are available; on what projects such aid was spent in each of those years; what process is used to monitor expenditure on such projects; and what evaluation has been made of the outcomes of that expenditure. [296726]

Mr. Thomas: The total amount of bilateral programme aid provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to Tanzania in the last five years is as follows:

—	*£ million*
2004-05	94.9
2005-06	109.3
2006-07	108.5
2007-08	120.0
2008-09	127.7

Information about individual projects is available on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Africa-Eastern--Southern/Tanzania/

Projects and their outcomes are monitored on a regular basis by a designated lead adviser and programme manager. In addition, an annual review process assesses the performance of the project against a five-point scale and will lead to action where necessary to ensure that the project continues to meet its overall objectives. All projects are also subject to a completion report which provides a formal evaluation of the project and its impact.

Tanzania: Politics and Government

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of standards of governance in Tanzania. [296727]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development office in Dar es Salaam has a team dedicated to assessing standards of governance in Tanzania and to supporting efforts to improve these. Each year donors and the Government of Tanzania undertake a formal assessment of governance as part of the review of budget support. The last such review was conducted in November 2008.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Devolution

10. **Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there will be a residual power for the Government to intervene in relation to a decision by a Northern Ireland Justice Minister to repatriate a foreign prisoner on medical or other grounds following the proposed devolution of responsibility for criminal justice and policing; and if he will make a statement. [296676]

Mr. Woodward: The repatriation of foreign prisoners will become the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Minister for Justice after the devolution of criminal justice and policing. Decisions on the grounds of national security will, however, remain excepted.

Prisoner Release

11. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent steps he has taken to strengthen mechanisms for the supervision of offenders following their release from prisons in Northern Ireland. [296677]

Paul Goggins: Earlier this year, I announced the introduction of electronic tagging, strengthening the capacity of the criminal justice system to manage offenders in the community. This is working well and has improved the ability of the police and the probation service to monitor those on bail or licence.

Dissident Republicans

12. **Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the level of activity of dissident Republicans in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [296678]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge).

Local Government Reorganisation

13. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on reorganisation of local government in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [296679]

14. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on reorganising local government in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [296680]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Upminster (Angela Watkinson).

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [295447]

Mr. Woodward: Northern Ireland Office (NIO) Ministers hosted and attended four Christmas receptions.

These events were attended by over 1,500 cross-community representatives from the criminal justice, policing, military, charity and voluntary sectors across Northern Ireland. The total cost was £37,534.53.

The Northern Ireland Office works in partnership with a range of organisations in the course of delivering the Department's objectives on political development, policing and justice. This includes working with strategic partners within the policing and criminal justice field, engagement with community groups and interests around Northern Ireland, working closely with the Irish Government and engaging with key opinion formers abroad. The NIO also helps promote community cohesion and celebrates successes in Northern Ireland by making Hillsborough Castle accessible to community groups, charities, the armed forces, veterans, and others working in the policing and justice fields.

The Secretary of State did not attend in an official capacity any Christmas functions arranged by the Department's external agencies.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland staff administer the issue of firearms certificates. [297582]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Fireworks: Death

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries have been caused by fireworks in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [297587]

Paul Goggins: Responsibility for collating these statistics is now devolved and falls to the Department of Health, Social Security and Public Safety within the Northern Ireland Executive.

Terrorism: Victims

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assistance his Department is providing to families in Northern Ireland who have yet to establish the location of the remains of relatives in order to allow for a proper burial. [297126]

Paul Goggins: The Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains (ICLVR) was established in 1999 by treaty between the UK Government and the Irish Government. The objective of the Commission is to facilitate the location of the remains of the victims of violence, killed before 10 April 1998, as a result of acts committed on behalf of an unlawful organisation which has been proscribed under the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1996 in the UK or subject to a suppression order under the Offences Against the State Act 1939 in Ireland. These individuals are commonly known as 'The Disappeared'.

The Commission uses a range of investigative techniques in respect of information it receives about victims of violence within its remit. They aim to exhaust all reasonable steps to locate the remains of these individuals in order to facilitate a proper burial of those remains. They also aim to provide families with as much information as they can about the fate of their loved ones. The Commission shows tremendous dedication and commitment to their work, and their success in recovering the remains of Danny McIlhone in December 2008 is a testament to their approach.

I have met the families of the Disappeared on several occasions and I am always willing to listen to their concerns. In response to the views they raised initially with me the Northern Ireland Assembly has passed the Presumption of Death Act (Northern Ireland) 2009, enabling the families to gain some measure of closure by enabling the formal registration of the deaths of the Disappeared, and a confidential free telephone service for the ICLVR has been established. Some funding has also been provided to the WAVE Trauma Centre for their work with the families of the Disappeared.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to prohibit the sale of puppies in pet shops. [297283]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has no proposals to prohibit the sale of dogs from pet shops. There are currently two independent inquiries underway looking into dog breeding. Both inquiries are expected to report in the next few months. We do not want to pre-empt the recommendations of the inquiries by bringing forward legislation in this area.

In the meantime, the welfare of dogs in pet shops continue to be covered by the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Under section 9 of the 2006 Act, all owners and keepers must provide for the welfare needs of their animal (the "welfare offence"). Anyone failing to do so could face a maximum penalty of £5,000, or six months' imprisonment, or both. In addition, pet shops have to be licensed by the local authority.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. [296870]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Wild animals used in travelling circuses are protected by The Animal Welfare Act 2006, which prevents unnecessary cruelty or suffering to any vertebrate animal. The Act makes owners and keepers responsible for ensuring that the welfare needs of their animals are met. This includes the need: for a suitable environment (place to live); for a suitable diet; to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (if applicable); and to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

A Feasibility Study is currently underway looking at the possibility of regulating wild animal acts in travelling circuses. The Feasibility Study is nearing completion and we expect it to be finalised by the end of the year.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been prosecuted under the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 for importing a prohibited breed of dog in each of the last five years. [297277]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As there is no offence of importing a prohibited type dog into this country contained in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, there have been no such prosecutions over the last five years.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department provides to police forces on the implementation of the measures in section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. [297279]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has made available to the police a number of guidance notes about the Dangerous Dogs Act including section 1.

Most recently, in April this year, DEFRA produced a document which explains the law on the prohibited type dogs "Dangerous Dogs Law—Guidance for Enforcers". This was produced in response to a consultation with police forces about the law in this area.

In addition, DEFRA has made available, on its website, all previous guidance notes produced by central Government since the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 came into force.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of dog owners proceeded against under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 subsequently had their dogs placed on the Index of Exempted Dogs in each of the last five years. [297282]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not possible to provide clear figures on the numbers of people who have had their dogs added to the Index of Exempted Dogs as a result of being prosecuted under section 1(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. In addition to people who are prosecuted, there are those who have had their dogs added to the Index by way of a non-prosecution avenue (section 4B of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991—as amended, 1997).

The following table shows the numbers of dogs added to the Index of Exempted Dogs between 2003 and 2007, inclusive.

	Number of Dogs processed by index	*Certificates of exemption issued*	*Number certificate of exemption issued*
2003	0	0	0
2004	6	6	0
2005	1	1	0
2006	6	6	0
2007	185	141	44

Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under section 1(3) of the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts under section 1(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

	Offence description	*Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog*
	Section of the Act	*S.1(3)*
2003	Proceeded against	1
	Found guilty	1
2004	Proceeded against	5
	Found guilty	2
2005	Proceeded against	11
	Found guilty	7
2006	Proceeded against	8
	Found guilty	5
2007	Proceeded against	87
	Found guilty	62

[1] The number proceeded against and number found guilty statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative datasystems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Departmental Data Protection

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* data tapes, *(b)* CDs, *(c)* memory sticks, *(d)* laptops and *(e)* other equipment containing data of each type have been lost from (i) his Department and (ii) each of his Department's agencies in each of the last five years. [297655]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* Details of total losses or thefts from DEFRA and some of its agencies from 2005-06 onwards of mobile phones, blackberries (including PDAs) and laptops were provided in response to a question from the hon. Member from Putney (Justine Greening) 19 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1212W. A further breakdown and complete agency figures are not available centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. Prior to 2008, losses of data tapes, CDs and memory sticks were not recorded or collected centrally. Thereafter losses involving personal protected information were recorded and details were published in the 2008 departmental Annual Report:

http://defraweb/corporate/about/how/deprep/index.htm

and in the 2008-09 departmental Resource Accounts:

http://defraweb/corporate/about/how/finance/resource-accounts/docs/resource-accounts2008-2009.pdf

Dogs: Tagging

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the merits of microchipping of dogs. [297285]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has not commissioned any research or assessed research by others into the social benefits of microchipping of dogs.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider the merits of compulsory microchipping of dogs. [297286]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Dog Identification Group (DIG) recommended in its 2000 report that a voluntary scheme for the permanent identification of dogs be introduced. Since the DIG report, there has been an increase in voluntary dog registration. At the forefront of this is Petlog, which is the largest pet reunification service in the UK. It manages a database of over 3,500,000 records. This is on hand 24 hours a day to authorised bodies such as animal wardens or animal welfare centres, who can scan the chips in found animals and trace their owners via the Petlog database. Today up to 40-50 per cent. of dogs are registered on the Petlog system.

We have no plans to make microchipping compulsory.

Floods: West Midlands

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding the Government has allocated for the maintenance and upgrading of flood defences in the West Midlands in the last five years. [297271]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's Midlands Region has spent £114,260,000 to design and construct new defences and maintain existing ones in the West Midlands. The table shows the breakdown between capital, revenue and local levy funding.

This includes major capital schemes constructed at Bewdley, Burton, Cannock, Cheltenham, Hereford, Kidderminster and North Littleton, with flood risk to 8,614 properties reduced as a result.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Capital expenditure (new build/rebuild	12,610,000	7,764,000	3,538,000	8,014,000	12,239,000
Revenue expenditure (maintenance)	13,400,000	14,345,000	16,057,000	13,393,000	12,900,000
Total	26,010,000	22,109,000	19,595,000	21,407,000	25,139,000
Additional local levy (raised by Regional Flood Defence Committee)	1,495,000	1,828,000	0,580,000	1,171,000	2,616,000

[1] Based on current year forecasts.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what further steps the Government plans to take to prevent flooding in the West Midlands. [297272]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has identified projects to reduce the risk of flooding to 11,109 houses in the West Midlands between 2010 and 2020. Investment will continue to improve flood modelling, mapping, forecasting and warning. The development and testing of flood response plans will also continue in partnership with local authorities and emergency services.

The following table shows the planned expenditure on flood risk management:

Major planned future expenditure (new defences) West Midlands

Delivery period	*Location*	*Planned expenditure (£)*
2012-15	Barton, Staffordshire	1,000,000
2011-13	Sparkhill, Birmingham	1,500,000
2013-15	Shipston upon Stour	1,500,000
2012 (onward)	River Tame Birmingham	50,000,000
2012-15	Hob Nail Brook, West Bromwich	4,500,000
2013-15	Castle Vale, Birmingham	2,400,000
2015-18	Snitterfield (near Coventry)	1,500,000
2013-15	Wolverhampton Culvert	2,000,000
2010-11	Upton on Severn	2,000,000
2010-11	Horsbere Brook, Gloucester	1,500,000
2010-12	Badsey Brook, Worcester	1,000,000
2012-15	Sandyford Brook, Stafford	4,500,000

River Trent: Pollution

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking in respect of the discharge of cyanide into the River Trent in October 2009; what discussions he has had with Severn Trent Water on the incident; and if he will make a statement. [297442]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency is investigating the cause of the incident with a view to prosecuting those responsible. It is having on-going discussions with Severn Trent Water and is inspecting the company's records to establish how its sewage works were disrupted by the effluent it received.

A suspension notice was served by the Environment Agency to prevent a company in Stoke-on-Trent discharging effluent to the sewer system. This notice will remain in force until the Environment Agency is satisfied that the risk of pollution has been removed.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reported incidents of pollution in the *(a)* River Trent and *(b)* River Tame there have been in each of the last three years. [297443]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of incidents of pollution reported to the Environment Agency over the last three years in the locations specified.

	Number of incidents per year	
	River Trent	*River Tame*
2007	51	52
2008	58	35
2009	53	29
Total	162	116

The majority of these incidents were classed as minor and had a limited impact on the water environment. Only 10 of these incidents had a major or significant impact; five on the River Trent and five on the River Tame.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the specifications of the Severn Trust Water sewage treatment plants at *(a)* Strongford, *(b)* Minworth, *(c)* Coleshill and *(d)* Tamworth. [297444]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Discharges from sewage treatment plants to surface water are required to have prior authorisation under the requirements of the Water Resources Act (1991). Discharge consent is issued under Section 88 of the Act.

The setting of these conditions involves assessing the needs of the receiving watercourse and calculating the standards a sewage treatment works must achieve in order to avoid causing damage to the environment. In most cases, these 'river needs' are prescribed by EC directives or national legislation.

Emission limits are typically set for ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids and, where necessary, can also include pesticides, metals and other substances deemed dangerous to the environment. It is the role of the operator to design the appropriate type of treatment works to achieve the specified standards. This applies to all the plants mentioned. Discharges are regularly monitored to ensure that these standards are met.

Rural Payments Agency: Data Protection

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what date *(a)* he, *(b)* the Minister for Food, Farming and the Environment and *(c)* officials in his Department was informed of the recent loss of confidential data from the Rural Payments Agency; [297577]

(2) who ordered the investigation into [illegible] recent loss of confidential data from the Rural Payments Agency; [297578]

(3) what data are contained on the tapes recently lost by the Rural Payments Agency; [297579]

(4) on what date individuals whose personal data were contained on tapes lost by the Rural Payments Agency were informed of the loss; [297580]

(5) on what date the investigation into the recent loss of confidential data from the Rural Payments Agency *(a)* began and *(b)* concluded; [297654]

(6) on what date the recent loss of confidential data from the Rural Payments Agency was discovered. [297674]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 3 November 2009]*: On 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 437, I made a statement to the House of Commons regarding unaccounted for electronic storage media at the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). I gave a commitment to put in the Library of the House a copy of the internal investigation report that was carried out by RPA. This text accompanies that report.

Summary

The potential issue was identified in routine audits, conducted by IBM in spring 2009 and subsequently by RPA in September 2009, which were unable to account for two back-up tapes and it was subsequently established that these were likely to have contained some personal data. As is explained in more detail in the section on assessment of risk below, a detailed assessment was made of the circumstances of the case and the risks to personal information. Although there was no documentary evidence that the tapes had been destroyed, there was evidence that one was identified as defective and suitable for destruction and the balance of probability was that both had been destroyed. It was also established that a combination of several low probability events would have had to arise in order for the tapes and the information to be misused. On this basis the DEFRA senior information risk owner (SIRO) decided that formal reporting was not warranted and that notifying people whose data might have been included in the two tapes would cause unnecessary alarm and would be disproportionate.

Back-up tapes and administration

This incident relates to back-up tapes used in an IBM data centre to provide essential IT services for the Rural Payments Agency. The proper administration of these tapes enables the department to restore live services if there is an outage or disaster.

Back-up tapes need to be carefully administered (i.e. recorded and labelled, logged whenever they are replaced, re-used, deleted or transported). Part of this administration is an annual audit to check that all tapes are accounted for.

Narrative of events relating to unaccounted media

Between 16 March 2009 and 7 May 2009, IBM carried out routine annual reconciliations of back-up tapes at their data centres. It became clear that 38 tapes and one CD could not be accounted for and they carried out an internal investigation and a thorough search of the data centres to establish if these were lost or had been misplaced. 19 of the 39 media were found during this audit process. At this stage it was not clear that protected personal data relating to RPA were on any of the tapes unaccounted for but it was reasonable to assume that this was possible.

IBM notified DEFRA orally at a meeting on 23 July 2009. Following further searches IBM informed DEFRA formally in writing on 28 August 2009 that 19 tapes and one CD remained unaccounted for although it had reason to believe that it knew where 18 of the tapes were and would be following this up directly.

At the same time the RPA were carrying out internal assurance and became aware of the results of the media audits reported on 28 August 2009.

On 3 September 2009, the risk was escalated to the DEFRA Deputy SIRO who immediately informed security branch and requested further investigation. Between 3 September and 21 September 2009, more tapes were accounted for (there had been double accounting errors and some media were awaiting destruction), leaving four media (three tapes and one CD) still unaccounted for.

It was ascertained that one tape and one CD did not hold protected personal data and the issue therefore related only to the two tapes which were likely to contain protected personal data.

On 7 October 2009, a full assessment of the position was passed to both the DEFRA SIRO and the SIRO at RPA, who agreed on 9 October 2009 that the incident did not warrant formal reporting to the Cabinet Office and Information Commissioner's Office and that notifying SPS claimants would be disproportionate and cause unnecessary concern.

Data and responsibilities

Not all data held and processed by DEFRA its agencies are personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act (1998). Much of the data processed by the IT suppliers at DEFRA relate to day-to-day transactions and are not connected to identifiable persons.

Most organisations that hold personal data require a Data Controller and a formal notification which sets out what data are being held and for what purposes. In the case of the Rural Payments Agency the Data Controller is DEFRA.

In addition, each government organisation has a Board level Senior Information Risk Owner who is responsible for managing the risks associated with information assets (both personal and non-personal). DEFRA's SIRO is the Director General of Law and Corporate Services and the Rural Payments Agency's SIRO is the Chief Information Officer.

DEFRA employs a number of companies to provide ICT (information and communications technology) services. Such companies are known as Data Processors (any action which relates to holding, using, manipulating or even just storing data is known as 'processing' as defined by the Data Protection Act). The Data Controller and Data Processors put in place all necessary measures to ensure that personal data are held in accordance with data protection law and principles (of which security is part). The Data Processor in this case was IBM.

Data Handling Review

The Data Handling Review (DHR) published in June 2008 sets out the minimum measures for personal data handling which government departments are required to adhere to. A written ministerial statement and a copy of the report can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/statements/080625_data_handling.aspx

The IBM procedures for handling back-up tapes on behalf of RPA were designed to ensure that their movements were recorded and tracked accurately throughout their life cycle. There were also compliance checks in place and as is described in the report of the RPA investigations into this incident, these checks revealed evidence that these procedures were not followed by IBM in some respects. IBM is now implementing changes in conjunction with DEFRA and RPA to strengthen arrangements and improve compliance checking.

Protection of Personal Data

Under the procedures introduced following the DHR, government Departments are required to identify and consider reporting any potential breach or loss of personal protected data to the Information Commissioner and also consider informing the individuals concerned. These decisions are normally taken by the SIRO, who is the board level executive with particular responsibility for information risk. Departments are required to include in their annual reports

> a summary of protected personal data related incidents formally reported to the Information Commissioner under the Data;
>
> a summary of centrally recorded protected personal data related incidents not formally reported to the Information Commissioner; and
>
> a summary statement of actions to manage information risk.

Assessment of risk posed by RPA media unaccounted for

The potential issue with unaccounted for RPA removable media was identified in routine audits conducted by IBM in spring 2009 and subsequently by RPA in September 2009. In accordance with the Cabinet Office Guidance an assessment was made of the risks posed by the media not accounted for. This established that although three tapes and one CD were unaccounted for, only two tapes could have contained protected personal data.

These two tapes were part of an automatic contained system in a secure data centre: tapes sit within a hopper and are automatically used to back it up in turn about every eight weeks. They are not moved within the data centre and if moved between sites (for example for destruction) are transported in authorised vehicles.

The most likely explanation for the fact that the two tapes could not be accounted for is that they were found to be defective and were destroyed. Other tapes of the same type were so destroyed and there is evidence that one of the tapes was reported as defective and recommended for destruction and neither of the tapes not accounted for appear to have been used on the system since 2007.

The tapes are not of a type that can be easily read: the data are dumped across the set of back-up tapes in random strings and appear in ASCII code. Specialist equipment and technical skills are needed to reconstitute them.

Even when reconstituted the data would not mean much. A name, address or banking details of a particular individual would not necessarily appear on the same backup tape or be linked together, six tapes are required to back up the system.

The risk of these tapes having been stolen for criminal purposes by someone with access to the system in the data centre is low. For the data to be useful the entire bank of tapes would be needed (because the linked data may be spread across all the tapes) so a person with access to the tapes and with the knowledge to interpret the data would also know that the entire set of six tapes was needed to make sense of it.

The assessment concluded that a combination of several low probability events would have had to arise in order for the tapes and the information to be misused. On this basis the DEFRA SIRO decided that formal reporting was not warranted and that notifying people whose data might have been included in the two tapes would cause unnecessary alarm and be disproportionate.

Lessons learned

The RPA instructed IBM to act upon lessons learned on 11 October 2009. This included: restrictions on physical access to data centres unless accompanied by specified representatives; a further strengthening of tracking and logging procedures for all removable storage media at sites (including the transit between sites); introduction of formal confirmatory reporting that any actions taken are fully catalogued and the audit history maintained. An external expert consultant, engaged by RPA, has also provided independent advice on these improvements.

The Secretary of State and Minister for Food and Farming were informed of these events on 28 October 2009.

At the time that the DEFRA SIRO decided that formal reporting was not warranted, a full review of IBM removable media storage, handling and accounting procedures was commissioned, covering arrangements across the DEFRA network. DEFRA will also be looking to strengthen arrangements for identifying and reporting on incidents involving the potential loss of personal information.

In accordance with normal practice the incident will be reported in the RPA's annual report for 2009-10.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data other than those contained on a passport are requested of carriers as part of the e-borders scheme. [296791]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* In addition to the data contained on a passport (travel document information), carriers are required to provide other passenger information (OPI) to e-Borders, but only to the extent that it is known to the carrier.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date he expects the e-borders scheme to be implemented in respect of each mode of transport used to enter the UK. [296793]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* e-Borders implementation for aviation has already started and maritime and rail will commence in 2010.

Community Policing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Neighbourhood Policing Fund was in each year since 2002-03; and what proportion of funding from the Fund was allocated for police community support officers in each of those years. [296358]

Mr. Hanson: Neighbourhood policing is central to improving public confidence in the police dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour that matters locally. Since 2002 we have invested heavily to ensure that there is now a neighbourhood policing team in every neighbourhood, including in total more than 13,500 officers and 16,000 PCSOs. We launched the Neighbourhood Policing Fund (NPF) during 2004-05 to incorporate a series of earlier PCSO funding rounds and significantly increase investment in PCSOs and the wider aspects of neighbourhood policing. The table shows the amount of funding allocated to neighbourhood policing and the proportion allocated specifically for PCSOs. This table includes the funding streams prior to the introduction of the NPF.

	Total (£ million)	*Percentage allocated for PCSOs*
2002-03	[1]12	100
2003-04	[1]35	100
2004-05	[1]48	100
2005-06	79	100
2006-07	222	[2]97
2007-08	315	[2]89
2008-09	324	[2]89

[1] Pre-NPF community support officer grant.

[2] Since 2006 we have allocated a proportion of the fund for discretionary spending within the authority's neighbourhood policing budget.

Funding is made available to police authorities, and it is for each police authority and each police force to allocate resources within the local force area. This funding provides a substantial proportion of each police authority's salary costs of its allocated share of the 16,000 PCSOs. The terms of the grant require that each authority employ at least that allocated number.

Crime: Children

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of each type have been committed by children aged *(a)* under 10 and *(b)* between 11 and 14 years old in the Milton Keynes area in the last five years. [296138]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. From the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office it is not possible to identify the age of the alleged offender.

Crime: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were reported in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008 in Norwich North constituency and how many of them resulted in convictions in each of those years. [296018]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested as it is not possible to track individual offences through to their outcome at court.

In addition, data specifically for the Norwich North constituency are not collected centrally in either the police recorded crime data or the court proceedings data collected by the Ministry of Justice.

The available recorded crime data are for the Norwich Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area. There were 17,890 offences recorded in 2007-08 and 16,176 in 2008-09, a fall of 10 per cent. Data for 1997 are not available.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the House authorities and *(b)* the former Speaker, Lord Martin in the last 12 months on legislation to restrict the extended use of amplified noise in Parliament Square; and if he will make a statement; [297129]

(2) whether the provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill will enable restrictions to be placed on *(a)* (i) the establishment and (ii) the continuation of existing permanent demonstrations in Parliament Square and *(b)* the use of amplified noise for long periods in the Square. [297130]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* My predecessor my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) met the former Speaker, the noble Lord Martin, in May to discuss a number of issues concerning Government proposals to repeal sections 132 to 138 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act. Ministers have discussed and will continue to discuss these proposals with the House authorities. I met the Serjeant at Arms in October.

The provisions in part 4 of the Constitutional Renewal and Governance Bill repeal sections 132 to 138 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 and provide the police with new powers to maintain access to Parliament.

The police will be able to place conditions on demonstrations only to the extent that they are necessary in order to prevent a march or assembly from blocking access to Parliament or, as currently under the Public Order Act, where they are necessary to prevent serious public disorder, serious disruption to the life of the community or serious damage to property.

Hakluyt

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contacts his Department has had with Hakluyt and Co. Ltd. since 1 January 2009. [296747]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office cannot find any record of any contact between the Home Office and Hakluyt and Co. Ltd.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal migrants have been found to be working in *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* the Immigration and Passport Service in each of the last five years. [288551]

Alan Johnson: In 2006 a total of nine contract cleaners, working in the then Immigration and Nationality Department of the Home Office, were found not to have valid leave to remain in the UK. Following that the Home Office's procedures for checking its own employees were tightened and the Home Office worked with its contractors to ensure that they fulfilled their responsibilities for pre-employment checking of their employees. Since 2006 we know of only one other case (in 2008) where an employee of a contractor had invalid leave to remain.

Immigration: Pakistan and Abu Dhabi

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from whom entry clearance officers in his Department's visa hub in *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Abu Dhabi received instructions not to carry out telephone interviews with visa applicants; and in what form such instructions were given. [294287]

Alan Johnson: No instruction has been issued to entry clearance officers (ECOs) overseas, including those working in Pakistan and Abu Dhabi, not to interview visa applicants.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether visa processing work carried out at his Department's *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Abu Dhabi visa hub has been transferred to other visa processing centres. [294288]

Alan Johnson: Decision-making on visa applications submitted in Pakistan has been transferred in stages since October 2008 from Islamabad to Abu Dhabi (non-settlement applications) and London (settlement applications). No Pakistan work has been sent elsewhere.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293474]

Mr. Hanson: In respect of Home Office non-departmental public bodies, three representatives of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) attended fringe events at the Labour and Conservative political party conferences in 2009, as observers.

Police Community Support Officers

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers police community support officers have in relation to the use of speed detection devices. [293763]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 22 October 2009]:* No legal powers are required in order to operate a speed detection device. Police community support officers (PCSO) may use them. However, police community support officers have no power to issue a fixed penalty notice for a speeding offence. A police officer may issue a fixed penalty notice for speeding on the basis of evidence obtained by a PCSO.

Police: Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* pay and *(b)* pay-related cost of employment of a full-time police officer was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [295387]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) Pay scales for police officers in England and Wales from 1 September 2009 are shown in the following table.

(b) Based on published information, the average cost of employment (including salaries, National Insurance, pension costs and superannuation) of a police officer in 2008-09 was £54,300 per full-time officer[1, 2].

[1] Source: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) 2008-09 (Provisional Actual data).

[2] Home Office Statistical Bulletin on Police Service Strength in England and Wales published in March 2009 - Police Numbers.

Pay scales for police officers in England and Wales from one September 2009

Rank	*Pay scale*
Constable	£22,680-£35,610
Sergeant	£35,610-£40,020
Inspector	£45,624-£49,488
Inspector (London)	£47,625-£51,504
Chief inspector	£50,502-£52,578
Chief inspector (London)	£52,515-£54,588
Superintendent	£60,750-£70,779
Chief superintendent	£72,543-£76,680
Assistant chief constable[1]	£88,470-£103,218
Deputy chief constable[1]	£106,167-£135,660
Chief constable[1]	£123,858-£176,943
Deputy commissioner	£209,382
Commissioner	£253,620

[1] Including equivalent of London ranks.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police authority recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each of the last five years. [296427]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the value of cash forfeiture orders and confiscation orders obtained by police forces under the Proceeds and Crime Act 2002, and earlier legislation, is set out in the following tables. The police can obtain forfeiture orders in the magistrates courts following the seizure of cash which they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is the proceeds of crime or intended for use in crime. Confiscation orders are made in the Crown court. The enforcement of confiscation orders is essentially a matter for HM Courts Service.

Asset recovery performance by police forces in England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Table 1: Cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained in 2004-05

£

	Cash forfeitures	*Confiscation*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	133,916.00	1,826,013.23
Bedfordshire Police	23,321.00	131,660.96
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	21,368.51	2,674,079.90
Cheshire Constabulary	98,086.69	471,570.50
City of London Police	193,166.36	2,016,420.02
Cleveland Police	82,507.14	149,554.28
Cumbria Constabulary	60,070.00	64,085.05
Derbyshire Constabulary	150,764.01	2,387,166.85
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	0.00	1,182,801.95
Dorset Police	20,565.00	1,030,259.06
Durham Constabulary	0.00	464,304.45
Dyfed-Powys Police	0.00	201,060.20
Essex Police	72,535.00	299,260.57
Gloucestershire Constabulary	0.00	390,464.23
Greater Manchester Police	231,487.95	3,191,826.00
Gwent Police	21,606.00	356,841.12
Hampshire Constabulary	80,394.45	368,306.41
Hertfordshire Constabulary	41,175.00	266,431.93
Humberside Police	0.00	330,636.13
Kent Police	231,086.24	1,710,106.38
Lancashire Constabulary	109,496.31	3,540,660.63
Leicestershire Constabulary	94,283.42	860,680.35
Lincolnshire Police	96,640.00	271,222.23
Merseyside Police	704,832.58	2,203,863.63
Metropolitan Police Service	2,566,163.12	25,150,436.01
Norfolk Constabulary	59,735.01	849,764.11
North Wales Police	34,410.45	75,347.67
North Yorkshire Police	12,340.00	192,741.94
Northamptonshire Police	20,909.60	1,042,508.87
Northumbria Police	0.00	887,223.08
Nottinghamshire Police	93,905.00	1,344,616.67
South Wales Police	203,507.00	196,124.51
South Yorkshire Police	264,500.00	1,117,598.45
Staffordshire Police	19,430.00	260,975.02
Suffolk Constabulary	45,980.00	320,374.31
Surrey Police	102,495.00	1,134,623.31
Sussex Police	76,575.67	927,201.05
Thames Valley Police	299,427.86	572,971.61
Warwickshire Police	10,827.36	46,528.93
West Mercia Constabulary	216,213.60	738,150.04
West Midlands Police	558,050.40	1,475,672.28
West Yorkshire Police	161,138.70	2,089,223.87
Wiltshire Constabulary	0.00	482,550.71

Table 2: Cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained in 2005-06

£

	Cash forfeitures	*Confiscation*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	86,995.14	1,350,156.15
Bedfordshire Police	38,601.01	233,509.07
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	54,387.50	156,358.05
Cheshire Constabulary	281,051.72	547,246.12
City of London Police	106,017.22	1,449,427.09
Cleveland Police	54,234.38	841,995.09
Cumbria Constabulary	268,574.24	99,449.45
Derbyshire Constabulary	40,217.66	292,430.68
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	16,959.09	863,560.06
Dorset Police	150,692.54	840,085.68
Durham Constabulary	5,660.00	1,014,246.20
Dyfed-Powys Police	0.00	459,733.62
Essex Police	128,225.42	523,381.11
Gloucestershire Constabulary	26,067.10	344,403.20
Greater Manchester Police	493,262.31	4,701,229.78
Gwent Police	21,750.50	468,493.95
Hampshire Constabulary	99,897.50	803,982.52
Hertfordshire Constabulary	22,711.00	912,879.03
Humberside Police	49,016.71	244,158.75
Kent Police	433,171.86	917,499.25
Lancashire Constabulary	130,002.88	4,332,663.09
Leicestershire Constabulary	5,490.00	1,103,613.18
Lincolnshire Police	27,860.00	1,420,303.50
Merseyside Police	934,655.44	2,537,917.43
Metropolitan Police Service	6,163,935.02	25,138,026.12
Norfolk Constabulary	96,232.00	3,187,861.84
North Wales Police	292,940.84	738,071.51
North Yorkshire Police	43,939.75	369,561.13
Northamptonshire Police	156,181.41	592,367.98
Northumbria Police	25,110.00	497,611.54
Nottinghamshire Police	76,857.11	401,539.69
South Wales Police	116,159.53	5,052,519.78
South Yorkshire Police	177,460.05	1,082,532.84
Staffordshire Police	96,002.51	1,068,689.27
Suffolk Constabulary	27,824.14	638,467.96
Surrey Police	142,707.32	665,750.09
Sussex Police	135,894.49	2,146,331.65
Thames Valley Police	220,524.48	2,069,489.00
Warwickshire Police	41,411.85	212,979.83
West Mercia Constabulary	84,710.00	1,155,162.42
West Midlands Police	746,793.29	2,602,105.00
West Yorkshire Police	138,336.26	4,225,933.68
Wiltshire Constabulary	24,942.00	570,130.74

Table 3: Cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained in 2006-07

£

	Cash forfeitures	*Confiscation*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	118,111.16	1,099,536.51
Bedfordshire Police	79,555.83	321,706.92
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	112,500.17	863,759.13

Table 3: Cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained in 2006-07

£

	Cash forfeitures	*Confiscation*
Cheshire Constabulary	130,338.80	841,103.05
City of London Police	137,504.33	1,550,085.48
Cleveland Police	59,646.72	1,853,446.49
Cumbria Constabulary	495,227.41	236,030.73
Derbyshire Constabulary	162,069.96	640,174.85
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	97,194.20	4,711,463.22
Dorset Police	1,853,768.66	2,027,783.85
Durham Constabulary	86,225.50	268,878.43
Dyfed-Powys Police	21,067.03	250,053.68
Essex Police	235,385.24	834,593.38
Gloucestershire Constabulary	107,130.05	186,267.36
Greater Manchester Police	463,050.74	2,441,451.40
Gwent Police	45,003.42	665,378.67
Hampshire Constabulary	178,630.27	903,561.34
Hertfordshire Constabulary	657,098.02	558,882.07
Humberside Police	81,304.55	969,974.23
Kent Police	664,169.76	4,113,271.57
Lancashire Constabulary	975,934.86	2,310,087.06
Leicestershire Constabulary	140,929.91	826,584.55
Lincolnshire Police	19,641.06	322,934.11
Merseyside Police	1,542,181.62	4,998,019.81
Metropolitan Police Service	6,481,594.79	15,025,413.87
Norfolk Constabulary	28,324.05	241,938.78
North Wales Police	131,853.02	2,759,123.52
North Yorkshire Police	30,949.97	246,250.22
Northamptonshire Police	265,712.35	868,197.28
Northumbria Police	83,624.81	444,487.43
Nottinghamshire Police	36,135.10	3,887,056.10
South Wales Police	26,492.80	2,364,777.98
South Yorkshire Police	263,347.87	1,321,946.43
Staffordshire Police	518,779.68	888,112.46
Suffolk Constabulary	11,435.00	457,049.93
Surrey Police	233,126.55	1,331,447.67
Sussex Police	140,910.70	587,638.84
Thames Valley Police	130,023.40	1,688,234.89
Warwickshire Police	84,859.39	707,532.37
West Mercia Constabulary	481,216.44	248,151.29
West Midlands Police	711,811.19	4,562,478.49
West Yorkshire Police	162,303.07	4,815,559.45
Wiltshire Constabulary	62,473.50	131,954.52

Table 4: Cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained in 2007-08

£

	Cash forfeitures	*Confiscation*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	219,704.84	1,335,388.37
Bedfordshire Police	197,832.85	1,002,869.42
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	106,883.26	1,345,644.77
Cheshire Constabulary	369,451.60	820,631.85
City of London Police	232,637.27	892,359.36
Cleveland Police	164,746.07	752,366.29
Cumbria Constabulary	194,348.46	1,300,313.01
Derbyshire Constabulary	307,125.81	1,768,291.06
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	174,771.38	1,218,371.52
Dorset Police	213,137.09	1,866,821.24
Durham Constabulary	45,653.30	823,505.76
Dyfed-Powys Police	5,140.05	967,566.60
Essex Police	164,030.96	339,582.35
Gloucestershire Constabulary	188,027.08	1,519,838.51
Greater Manchester Police	1,083,026.08	3,271,300.68
Gwent Police	52,732.23	1,565,678.40
Hampshire Constabulary	312,668.43	2,305,618.93
Hertfordshire Constabulary	291,054.10	2,806,168.90
Humberside Police	265,922.22	1,381,037.32
Kent Police	364,777.91	2,762,467.82
Lancashire Constabulary	368,809.92	2,312,764.17
Leicestershire Constabulary	351,623.65	4,209,907.03
Lincolnshire Police	71,798.37	142,968.09
Merseyside Police	2,957,249.53	3,245,151.92
Metropolitan Police Service	8,373,279.61	24,972,207.04
Norfolk Constabulary	34,977.43	2,414,427.49
North Wales Police	107,260.50	912,095.23
North Yorkshire Police	104,044.67	1,318,236.16
Northamptonshire Police	236,158.65	2,854,229.90
Northumbria Police	521,776.59	1,217,413.99
Nottinghamshire Police	55,608.72	774,058.80
South Wales Police	77,724.48	705,113.30
South Yorkshire Police	823,546.30	4,212,846.70
Staffordshire Police	658,240.81	2,588,418.43
Suffolk Constabulary	134,263.35	823,526.43
Surrey Police	155,774.69	697,375.94
Sussex Police	276,478.55	846,218.14
Thames Valley Police	344,336.90	43,195,794.23
Warwickshire Police	254,020.60	479,042.20
West Mercia Constabulary	154,079.71	1,113,729.67
West Midlands Police	1,066,748.89	2,462,885.07
West Yorkshire Police	362,677.71	1,987,305.48
Wiltshire Constabulary	143,465.20	479,760.89

Table 5: Cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained in 2008-09

£

	Cash forfeitures	*Confiscation*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	262,223.98	2,224,622.10
Bedfordshire Police	245,044.37	986,774.21
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	26,800.97	1,009,504,46
Cheshire Constabulary	489,875.77	2,308,844.74
City of London Police	466,315.62	2,721,055.79
Cleveland Police	373,662.13	708,275.58
Cumbria Constabulary	82,653.49	8,327,805.99
Derbyshire Constabulary	508,534.88	792,998.67
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	393,971.54	996,239.81
Dorset Police	100,012.92	420,037.70
Durham Constabulary	115,903.10	471,834.82

Table 5: Cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained in 2008-09

£

	Cash forfeitures	*Confiscation*
Dyfed-Powys Police	102,698.64	170,438.60
Essex Police	260,767.69	907,358.66
Gloucestershire Constabulary	221,398.93	1,802,755.18
Greater Manchester Police	946,710.15	6,287,442.79
Gwent Police	214,909.26	1,886,885.76
Hampshire Constabulary	230,957.18	1,149,608.89
Hertfordshire Constabulary	233,143.46	1,243,256.27
Humberside Police	236,364.14	1,366,912.09
Kent Police	430,431.17	1,789,290.49
Lancashire Constabulary	991,765.70	5,753,770.38
Leicestershire Constabulary	268,691.16	2,792,918.04
Lincolnshire Police	85,352.56	518,169.20
Merseyside Police	1,887,811.42	4,723,707.22
Metropolitan Police Service	11,183,290.26	37,491,923.31
Norfolk Constabulary	17,197.25	758,807.46
North Wales Police	100,504.05	610,501.20
North Yorkshire Police	141,350.11	509,221.26
Northamptonshire Police	93,589.58	708,187.21
Northumbria Police	379,236.25	1,543,540.44
Nottinghamshire Police	351,929.69	1,709,461.67
South Wales Police	146,431.71	2,263,558.19
South Yorkshire Police	709,869.07	3,256,024.39
Staffordshire Police	359,286.26	3,860,860.07
Suffolk Constabulary	144,840.88	593,213.19
Surrey Police	128,303.31	903,820.95
Sussex Police	92,578.47	1,590,927.88
Thames Valley Police	762,085.05	3,198,491.65
Warwickshire Police	230,815.56	305,016.37
West Mercia Constabulary	180,419.29	1,287,531.73
West Midlands Police	2,014,271.90	7,154,515.94
West Yorkshire Police	341,671.93	3,505,952.26
Wiltshire Constabulary	148,963.24	524,486.81

Source:

Joint Asset Recovery Database. Data includes cases where forces were assisted by Regional Asset Recovery Teams.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the charging regimes in place for mobile location information disclosed under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; what changes are made to *(a)* police forces and *(b)* private companies for disclosure of such information; and if he will make a statement. [296506]

Mr. Hanson: Some private organisations, such as roadside breakdown services, have entered into arrangements with their customers and communications service providers to enable them to obtain location information. This is not covert investigatory activity requiring authorisation under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). Moreover RIPA does not regulate the commercial activities of private companies. The Government have no data on costs incurred by private companies with such arrangements.

Material provided to the police in response to authorised access requests under RIPA has to be to an evidential standard, with procedures in place to ensure clear accountability and compliance with the statutory framework. The arrangements and the charges are kept under review.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the net change in the stock of local authority housing was in 2008-09. [297819]

Mr. Ian Austin: The local authority housing stock levels reported for 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009 show a reduction of 53,646 dwellings over the year. This figure is subject to audit.

Economic Situation

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to assist those local communities which are most vulnerable to the effects of the recession; and if he will make a statement. [296276]

Barbara Follett: Government will continue to do what is necessary to get Britain through the recession as quickly and as fairly as possible.

We are seeing real results from the schemes put in place for businesses, homeowners and those facing unemployment as a result of the global recession.

For business the Government are aware of the impact business rates can have in the current economic climate which is why we have introduced a range of measures including the introduction of the business rates deferral scheme which will enable business ratepayers to defer up to an estimated £650 million across 1.7million properties, boosting their cash flow.

We are also supporting the construction industry whilst increasing the number and quality of social houses available, for example through the Kickstart programme which is over £1 billion targeted at currently stalled sites to support development of high-quality mixed tenure developments.

In addition we introduced the LA new build programme to provide funding for local authorities to deliver new social housing over the next two years on land they already own that can be developed only by them. The £460 million fund could provide nearly 4,000 new homes by March 2012.

For homeowners: help is available to households at every stage of the process to ensure repossession is a last resort. Over 300,000 homeowners have got help and advice since April 2008 and direct financial assistance is helping over 200,000 people.

For job seekers: Government have now invested £5 billion to help those facing unemployment as a result of the global recession, providing more help and advice at every stage of unemployment.

CLG are supporting local government to deliver the LGA's pledge to increase the number of apprenticeships by 7,500.

The HCA have committed to delivering 1300 apprentices through the Housing Pledge, and a further 1,500 apprentices and local labour opportunities through the National Affordable Housing Programme. They are also looking at their other funding programmes to see how they can lever in more apprentices through those.

European Regional Development Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the contingent liabilities in relation to *(a)* alleged financial irregularities with the European regional development fund and *(b)* corrections due to the European Commission in respect of such irregularities; and how much his Department and its predecessors have paid to the European Commission in respect of corrections imposed as a result of financial irregularities in each year since 1997. [294668]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's resource account for 2008-09 which was published in July 2009 set out an estimate of contingent liabilities that could arise in future from the management of successive rounds of European regional development fund. The timing and magnitude of future liabilities largely depends upon the outcome of the audit of each programme in the 2000-06 round of ERDF which are due to close formally by 31 March 2010 and a number of audits conducted by the European Commission. The reported estimate of contingent liabilities will be reviewed in the light of the outcome of these audits.

The Department has settled with the European Commission the following amounts of financial corrections since 1997:

2008: €25.5 million (£20.1 million)

2009: €31.0 million (£26.9 million)

Fire Services: Fareham

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public money has been spent on the proposed Fire Service Regional Control Centre at Fareham; how much is being spent on a monthly basis in maintaining the facility; and what the monetary value is of contractual obligations entered into in respect of the building. [296401]

Mr. Malik: Since practical completion on 15 May 2008, expenditure on Fareham Regional Control Centre has been £2,356,788. The current monthly cost of the facility including rent, utilities and facilities management is approximately £163,000. The contractual cost for the lease over the full 25 year lease term is £43,337,023 including uplifts for inflation. The contractual cost for the facilities management over the full seven year contract term is £2,635,876.

Fire Services: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from *(a)* Lancashire County Council and *(b)* Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service on the FiReControl Project. [296753]

Mr. Malik: I have received no recent formal representations from Lancashire county council and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service on the FiReControl Project.

However, we continue to have regular contact at a technical level with all fire and rescue services in order to support delivery of the project.

Homelessness

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social housing new lets and *(b)* households were accepted as homeless in each local housing authority area in England in the last 12 months. [295283]

Mr. Ian Austin: Numbers of new lets are reported by local authorities annually, through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), covering the period 1 April to 31 March. For local authorities, new lets are defined as the number of lets given to tenants new to the reporting local authority. A table providing the number of new lets in 2007-08 has been placed in the Library. Figures for 2008-09 have not yet been published.

Numbers of new lets by registered social landlords are available via the Continuous Recording of Lettings system (CORE), covering the period 1 April to 31 March. For registered social landlords, new lets are defined as the number of lets given to tenants new to social housing as a whole. A table providing the number of lets made by registered social landlords in 2008-09 has been placed in the Library.

Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available).

A table of the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, by each local authority over the last 12 months (from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009), has been placed in the Library.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to assist *(a)* teachers and *(b)* other key workers with housing costs in each year since 1997; [296578]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of key workers in high-cost housing areas who have purchased a home in each year since 2001; [296580]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of key workers in each category who purchased their first home in each region in each year since 1997. [296581]

John Healey: Since 1997 we have assisted over 32,000 key workers through our low cost home ownership products.

The main initiatives taken specifically to assist teachers and other key workers with housing costs were the Starter Homes Initiative launched in 2001, and succeeded in 2004 by the Key Worker Living programme. Key workers are also a priority group for assistance through other low cost home ownership schemes including HomeBuy, the First Time Buyers Initiative and the London Wide Initiative.

The following tables show the data available on the number and categories of households who were assisted into a home through the Starter Homes Initiative.

	Health	*Education*	*Community safety*	*Others*	*Total*
2001-02	37	57	10	3	107
2002-03	1,084	1,221	255	56	2,616
2003-04	2,743	1,887	1,048	320	5,998
2004-05	31	31	8	7	77
Total	—	—	—	—	8,798

	Health	*Education*	*Community safety*	*Others*	*Total*
London	1,821	1,401	662	167	4,051
South East	1,565	1,281	527	173	3,546
East	247	309	129	33	718
South West	260	180	3	13	456
West Midlands	2	25	0	0	27
Total	—	—	—	—	8,798

The data above show that 8,798 key workers were helped through the Starter Homes Initiative A further 1,524 key workers were assisted where data on the region and categories of households information are not available. In total 10,322 key workers were helped through the Starter Home Initiative.

The following table shows the data available on the number of households who have been assisted into a home through the Key Worker Living programme and other low cost home ownership schemes available through HomeBuy. This does not include the First Time Buyers Initiative and London Wide Initiative.

Region	*Key worker category*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East	Health	203	408	118	124	291
	Education	240	376	134	136	144
	Community Safety	90	150	74	70	81
	Others	24	31	21	17	22
London	Health	620	939	928	696	291
	Education	684	1,489	661	496	295
	Community Safety	208	567	404	256	176
	Others	52	95	132	98	42
South East	Health	1,296	1,113	568	352	310
	Education	658	831	502	327	275
	Community Safety	182	401	341	227	209
	Others	33	77	79	46	38
East Midlands	Health	0	0	0	0	4
	Education	0	0	0	0	5
	Community Safety	0	0	0	0	4
	Others	0	0	0	0	0
North East	Health	0	0	0	1	0
	Education	0	0	0	0	0
	Community Safety	0	0	0	0	2
	Others	0	0	0	0	0
North West	Health	0	0	0	5	5
	Education	0	0	0	2	11
	Community Safety	0	0	0	4	7
	Others	0	0	0	0	1
South West	Health	0	0	0	33	66
	Education	0	0	0	37	64
	Community Safety	0	0	0	17	42
	Others	0	0	0	3	8
West Midlands	Health	0	0	0	0	9
	Education	0	0	0	0	13
	Community Safety	0	0	0	0	8
	Others	0	0	0	0	2
Yorkshire and Humberside	Health	0	0	0	7	7
	Education	0	0	0	3	8
	Community Safety	0	0	0	0	6
	Others	0	0	0	2	2
Total		4,290	6,477	3,962	2,959	2,448
				20,136		

The Key Worker Living programme operated in three regions, London, East and South East of England. From 2008 the Government gave key workers in all regions priority access to the HomeBuy programme as a whole. A further 1,377 key workers were assisted where there are more than one key worker living in a household. In total 21,513 key workers have been helped through the Key Worker Living and HomeBuy programme.

The following tables show the data available on the number of households who have been assisted into a home through the First Time Buyers Initiative and London Wide Initiative.

First Time Buyer's Initiative

Region	2006	2007	Calendar year 2008
South East	0	20	38
London	6	23	27
South West	0	13	24
East	0	2	21
Yorkshire and Humberside	0	13	12
West Midlands	0	25	31
North West	0	10	26
East Midlands	0	0	1
North East	0	2	0
Total	6	108	180
		294	

London Wide Initiative

	2007-08	2008-09
London	72	98
Total	72	98
	170	

From the data available. in total 294 key worker have been helped through the First Time Buyers Initiative and 170 key workers have been helped through the London Wide Initiative.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the median *(a)* house price and *(b)* income in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area in each year since 1997. [296579]

Mr. Ian Austin: Median house prices by local authority area are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-586.xls

Data on median income by local authority for each year since 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Median income in each region in the UK for the years 1997-98, 1999-2000 to 2005-06, 2007-08, £ per week equivalised, 2007-08 prices

Basis	Region	1997-9 to 1999-2000	1998-99 to 2000-01	1999-2000 to 2001-02
Before Housing Costs	North East	293	298	318
	North West	317	326	338
	Yorkshire and the Humber	307	312	326
	East Midlands	330	338	348
	West Midlands	330	331	341
	East of England	372	379	397
	London	374	393	408
	South East	400	413	424
	South West	333	345	357
	Scotland	334	340	351
	Wales	310	313	322
	Northern Ireland	—	—	—
After Housing Costs	North East	235	241	260
	North West	255	265	277
	Yorkshire and the Humber	246	251	267
	East Midlands	266	276	286
	West Midlands	265	268	277
	East of England	293	301	321
	London	278	295	312
	South East	311	325	337
	South West	264	275	288
	Scotland	269	276	286
	Wales	249	255	265
	Northern Ireland	—	—	—

Table 1: Median income in each region in the UK for the years 1997-98, 1999-2000 to 2005-06, 2007-08, £ per week equivalised, 2007-08 prices

Basis	Region	2000-01 to 2002-03	2001-02 to 2003-04	2002-03 to 2004-05
Before Housing Costs	North East	329	340	341
	North West	349	357	362
	Yorkshire and the Humber	341	351	356
	East Midlands	354	365	370
	West Midlands	351	360	362
	East of England	411	414	412
	London	424	432	431
	South East	437	445	448
	South West	372	378	384
	Scotland	359	371	379
	Wales	335	346	345
	Northern Ireland	—	—	356
After Housing Costs	North East	274	285	287
	North West	289	299	305
	Yorkshire and the Humber	282	293	300
	East Midlands	295	304	313
	West Midlands	288	298	304
	East of England	336	341	341
	London	326	334	333
	South East	348	358	363
	South West	302	312	320
	Scotland	297	313	324
	Wales	279	286	293
	Northern Ireland	—	—	307

Basis	*Region*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*	*2004-05 to 2006/07*	*2005-06 to 2007-08*
Before Housing Costs	North East	347	352	352
	North West	364	365	365
	Yorkshire and the Humber	356	363	366
	East Midlands	373	371	369
	West Midlands	357	358	361
	East of England	410	418	420
	London	435	438	441
	South East	450	453	457
	South West	387	394	396
	Scotland	386	386	388
	Wales	350	360	356
	Northern Ireland	357	356	360
After Housing Costs	North East	292	299	304
	North West	308	309	311
	Yorkshire and the Humber	301	307	311
	East Midlands	318	318	317
	West Midlands	300	300	304
	East of England	341	349	351
	London	338	344	351
	South East	369	371	377
	South West	325	332	332
	Scotland	332	332	336
	Wales	302	312	309
	Northern Ireland	311	311	312

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Household Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are.
7. Incomes are presented in 2007-08 prices and have been rounded to the nearest £ sterling.
8. Data for Northern Ireland is only available on the Family Resources Survey from 2002-03.

Housing Associations: Insurance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance his Department issues to housing associations on best practices in *(a)* tendering for and *(b)* selecting insurers for their activities; [297423]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of insurers who offer insurance cover for the activities of housing associations; [297424]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that housing associations take out adequate levels of insurance cover. [297425]

Mr. Ian Austin: Registered social landlords (RSLs) are independent social businesses and as such their boards have to be satisfied that business risks are properly assessed and audited.

The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) is the independent regulator of the RSL sector; it has statutory objectives to ensure the viability and efficiency of the sector which must include risk tolerance and risk management.

The Government do not hold information pertaining to the number of insurers that offer insurance cover for the activities of housing associations.

Housing: Construction

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to housing construction in Islington in each of the last five years; how many *(a)* council and *(b)* housing association dwellings for (i) rent and (ii) shared ownership were built in Islington in each such year; how many such dwellings he expects to be built in 2009-10; how much such funding he expects to allocate in each of the next three years; and how many such dwellings he expects to be built in Islington in each of those years. [297231]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of new registered social landlord (RSL) affordable homes (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) built in the London borough of Islington each year since 2003-04. There were no local authority affordable homes built in Islington in this period.

RSL New build affordable homes in Islington

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Social rent	210	140	200	220	260
Intermediate rent	0	0	300	190	20
Low cost home ownership	40	10	20	350	110
Total affordable homes	250	150	520	760	390

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 530 additional affordable homes were provided in Islington (new build and acquisitions).

Total affordable housing supply statistics for 2008-09 will be released by CLG in December 2009.

Information on the number of homes completed for social rent under the National Affordable Housing programme (NAHP) for April to September 2009 will be released by the HCA on 24 November.

The following table shows expenditure through the Affordable Housing programme in Islington over the last five years (both for new build and acquisitions).

	£ million
2004-05	30.8
2005-06	25.8
2006-07	44.9
2007-08	39.2
2008-09	25.9

As set out in the Homes and Communities Corporate Plan for 2009-10 we are aiming to deliver in England 55,000 affordable homes in 2009-10 and 56,000 in 2010-11.

Future levels of expenditure and outputs beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the outcome of the next Spending Review. Funding through the HCA is a process of competitive bidding and is not budgeted to local authority level.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what maximum expenditure limit has been set for the *(a)* Social HomeBuy and *(b)* Rent to HomeBuy scheme in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [297783]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 243-44W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what maximum limit was placed on expenditure on the *(a)* Social HomeBuy, *(b)* Rent to HomeBuy and *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy scheme in each of the last three years. [297795]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1540-42W.

Local Government: Stress

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on seeking to reduce work-related stress levels amongst their staff. [296523]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No such guidance is provided by the Department.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency have participated in the Mortgage Protection scheme since its inception. [297143]

John Healey: We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

Mortgage Rescue scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Figures can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics.

We will be publishing headline data for the July to September quarter 2009 on 12 November 2009, as pre-announced on the UK Statistics Authority Publication Hub and the Department's statistical release schedule.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average council tax bill for a home for social rent owned by *(a)* a registered social landlord and *(b)* a local authority was in each year since 1997; [297693]

(2) how many homes for social rent at each council tax band there were in each local authority area in each year since 1997; [297696]

(3) how many homes for social rent owned by *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authorities there were in each council tax band in each year since 1997. [297701]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with (i) registered social landlords and (ii) local authorities on a national social housing exchange system in each of the last six months. [297694]

Mr. Ian Austin: No such discussions have taken place.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration his Department has given to the introduction of a national social housing exchange *(a)* programme and *(b)* website; and if he will make a statement. [297702]

Mr. Ian Austin: Trends in social housing exchanges are monitored through the 2007-08 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA); the Department has no current proposals for the introduction of a national scheme.

Tenancy Deposit Solutions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department paid to Tenancy Deposit Solutions Ltd in each of the last five years. [297728]

John Healey: The Department has not provided any financial support to Tenancy Deposit Solutions Ltd. in any of the last five years.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department expects to make available to local authorities in England from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [297151]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is paid through Area Based Grant, indicative announcements have been made for the 2008-09 to 2010-11 spending period. £507,800,000 has been allocated for 2009-10, and the indicative settlement for 2010-11 is £507,900,000. We expect to confirm what funding is available for 2010-11 in December, alongside the Local Government Finance Settlement. No decision has been made about Working Neighbourhoods Fund beyond 2010-11.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business Council for Britain

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the achievements of the Business Council for Britain against its objectives. [295909]

Ian Lucas: The Business Council for Britain was established by the Prime Minister to ensure that the Government focuses on the areas where it will make the greatest benefit to the business environment and to assist the Government in putting in place the right strategy to enable business to compete in the global economy.

The Business Council continues to operate as a private sounding board for Government and provides a valuable insight into the current cross-cutting challenges and opportunities, highlighting where the links need to be made in order to drive a competitive UK economy.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses in Coventry have applied for financial assistance under *(a)* the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme and *(b)* the Capital Enterprise scheme; and how many such applications were successful. [297389]

Ian Lucas: Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 28 October, 19 businesses in Coventry have been offered loans totalling £2.4 million. Businesses may apply for a loan from any one of the participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, is most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF) activity data on enquiries and deal flow is collected on a national and regional basis and is not available for reporting at a sub regional basis. As from 28 October CfEF received 78 enquiries from businesses in the West Midlands seeking investment to the value of £76.9 million. While no investments have been made so far in this region, one business has been offered investment totalling £1.5 million and 11 propositions are under active consideration with a value of £13.9 million. The remaining enquiries are either being considered subject to further information to be supplied by the applicant or have been rejected or withdrawn.

Companies Act 2006

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps were taken to enable Companies House to manage the demand for electronic incorporations following the coming into force of the relevant provisions of the Companies Act 2006 on 1 October 2009. [296446]

Ian Lucas: All Companies House operational processes, including electronic incorporations, required to support the implementation of the Companies Act 2006, were subject to the same programme disciplines. Processes were reviewed, redesigned as necessary within the programme, and then quality assured by the relevant operational areas. The computer system changes required to support the revised operational processes were designed, built and subjected to a number of testing cycles. Staff were trained to undertake the new processes and then had practice sessions to reinforce the training they had received. In addition staff were trained in a number of processes to allow resources to be redeployed into areas experiencing high demand. A communications programme, in collaboration with the Department of Business Skills and Innovation, was run over the last two years to inform customers of the changes coming into force and how they would be affected.

Companies: Complaints

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints Companies House received in respect of companies registered with it in each of the last four years. [295903]

Ian Lucas: The number of complaints received by Companies House on technical offences in respect of companies registered in each of the last four years is as follows.

	Number
2006	2,347
2007	2,427
2008	2,505
2009[1]	2,329

[1] Up until October

Copyright: Internet

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of *(a)* bandwidth capping and *(b)* temporary internet account suspension in preventing illegal music file sharing. [296348]

Ian Lucas: Both measures are options which could be used to combat unlawful file-sharing of music files. The effectiveness of *(a)* bandwidth capping would depend on the level of the cap imposed and the aim would be to impose such a level as to severely restrict such activity without unduly impacting on other legitimate internet activities. Temporary account suspension *(b)* would block all file-sharing. However it would also prevent access to all internet functions and as such is a serious step which would only be used against the most serious infringers.

It should be noted that this is a fast changing area of technology and before considering introducing any such measure, we would seek up-to-date advice from Ofcom as to their effectiveness.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the likely effect on internet accounts which have been used to unlawfully file share copyrighted material of the threat of temporary account suspension. [296349]

Ian Lucas: The suspension of an internet account is a possible option that might be employed against those subscribers who have been identified as persistently file-sharing material in breach of copyright. There is a mass of industry survey evidence which shows that most subscribers would cease file-sharing activity if they received warning letters backed up with the threat of further enforcement action. Enforcement action in the form of account suspension represents a real, effective and credible deterrent. However it would also block legitimate internet activities and as such is a serious step which would only be used against the most serious infringers.

It should be noted that this is a fast changing area of technology and social behaviour and before considering the introduction of such a measure, we would seek up-to-date advice from Ofcom.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the likely effect on consumers of a reduction in the level of unlawful peer-to-peer file sharing on the internet. [296359]

Ian Lucas: File-sharing is an activity which requires large amounts of internet bandwidth. Many ISPs already employ traffic management techniques to limit bandwidth-hungry applications at peak times to optimise the performance of their networks.

Any significant reduction in unlawful file-sharing activity could therefore improve average broadband speeds.

A reduction in unlawful file-sharing will be the result of enforcement, education and new commercial deals. We would therefore expect a greater number legal content offers to become available to consumers thereby increasing choice.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the likely costs to internet service providers of compliance with the obligations set out in the Digital Britain report to reduce unlawful file sharing on their networks. [296372]

Ian Lucas: The most recent assessment of the likely costs to internet service providers was contained in the Government's consultation on P2P file-sharing issued on 16 June 2009.

The impact assessment calculated the likely costs to ISPs to be between £290-500 million over a 10 year period. This was set against likely benefits in the region of £1.2-1.4 billion.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to obtain assessments from internet service providers of the likely cost to them of compliance with obligations set out in the Digital Britain report to reduce unlawful file sharing on their networks. [296373]

Ian Lucas: We have held two consultations (July 2008 and June 2009) on possible action to tackle unlawful P2P file-sharing. Both consultations contained impact assessments and both formally asked all parties, including ISPs, for further information on the likely costs that would result. In particular the most recent consultation asked for estimates of the likely cost of the obligations proposed. This consultation closed on 29 September 2009.

More informally we have been in constant contact with all stakeholders including ISPs over the last two years and have made it clear throughout that we welcome additional and updated information on costs.

Departmental Manpower

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff were allocated to defence-related work in each of the last four years. [295050]

Ian Lucas: Since 2007, BIS (and its predecessors) has had three full-time staff engaged on defence industrial policy and relationship management of companies in the defence sector. In 2006, there were five full-time posts.

The Ministry of Defence's former Defence Export Service's Organisation (DESO) transferred to BIS on 1 April 2008 to form UK Trade and Investment's Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI-DSO). This focuses on promoting UK defence exports and employs 152 staff.

Further Education

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from the further education sector on the use of the title of college. [297089]

Ian Lucas: In the last six months, the only representations received from the further education sector have been two letters from the chief executive of the Association of Colleges on behalf of its members.

Internet

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what his most recent assessment is of the proportion of the UK's internet traffic that is peer-to-peer; [296351]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the proportion of network traffic carried by the main domestic internet service providers that is illegal peer-to-peer. [296352]

Ian Lucas: No such assessment has been made. This would require all ISPs to have the necessary technical ability to examine the contents of network traffic and to compare the contents against a registered content database to establish the legality of the traffic. Currently UK ISPS do not have such a capability.

In turn, HM Government cannot require them to monitor internet traffic in this way as such a general requirement would run counter to the eCommerce Directive.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars had been purchased under the car scrappage scheme in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the North West at the latest date for which figures are available. [296720]

Ian Lucas: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 23,864 completed scrappage transactions in the North West, 3,752 in Lancashire and 142 in Chorley.

Video Games

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of *(a)* exports of UK-produced video games and *(b)* video game imports to the UK in each year since 2001. [295763]

Ian Lucas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 133W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's budget for publicity and advertising was in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [293394]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's publicity and advertising budgets for the two years are contained in the following table.

	Total (£)
2008/09	2,330,000
2007/08	4,859,830

GCE A-Level: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils on free school meals were awarded a grade A in A Level history in 2008. [293607]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 16 October 2009]*: 52 (10.3 per cent. of those entered) pupils eligible for free school meals achieved a grade A in A-level history in 2008.

This figure relates to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in all maintained schools.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department was first informed by the Learning and Skills Council of the projected reduction in funding for 16 to 19 year old education for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [271205]

Mr. Iain Wright: We worked across Government to identify additional funding for the recent surge in demand for education and training. Thanks to the £655 million funding announcement in the Budget, we will be able to fund learning for an additional 54,500 young people each year for 2009/10 and 2010/11. This additional investment will secure the learning places required to help meet the September guarantee of a suitable learning place for every 16 to 18-year-old who wants one.

This will mean that we have funding for at least 1,550,000 learners for 2009/10 and 2010/11, the highest number of young people in learning that this country has ever seen.

We were quickly able to reassure school and college leaders who had previously feared their financial allocations would not fund their growth in the number of young people wanting to continue learning.

It will also mean that we were able to fund a further 20,000 young people who had not made their choice of learning place earlier in the year. We have recently announced an additional allocation for providers to deal with further over recruitment that has become apparent this September/October. Details of the latter will be announced shortly.

Teachers TV: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor paid towards the production of Teachers TV in the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293402]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The operating and financial years of the Teachers TV service in the relevant period ran from 1 August 2006 to 31 July 2007; from 1 August 2007 to 31 May 2008 (10 months) and from 1 June 2008 to 31 March 2009 (10 months). The second and third periods are shorter as these were tied in to the re-tendering of the supply contract in 2007/08 and a decision to align the operating year for the service to the normal financial year rather than the academic year; the new contract commenced on 1 June 2008.

In the year to 31 July 2007 the Department paid the Teachers TV supplier a total of £16,727,420.

In the 10-month period from 1 August 2007 to 31 May 2008 the Department paid the Teachers TV supplier a total of £10,700,298.

In the 10-month period from 1 June 2008 to 31 March 2009 the Department paid the Teachers TV supplier a total of £10,194,616.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Grants: Nurses

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many student nurses have unsuccessfully applied for bereavement grants from her Department in each of the last three years. [292039]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Correspondence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency to respond to emails from the hon. Member for Eastbourne dated 31 July, 11 September and 8 October 2009, regarding his constituent Mrs Baker. [293985]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when she expects the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency to respond to emails from the hon. Member for Eastbourne dated 31 July, 11 September and 8 October 2009, regarding his constituent Mrs Baker. [293985]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency to respond to emails from the hon. Member for Eastbourne dated 20 May, 24 July and 24 August 2009, regarding his constituent Mr. Holmes. [293986]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when she expects the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency to respond to emails from the hon. Member for Eastbourne dated 20 May 24 July, and 24 August 2009, regarding his constituent Mr. Holmes. [293986]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Council Tax: Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in each region were in receipt of *(a)* council tax and *(b)* housing benefit in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [297252]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The available information is in the following tables. Information is only available monthly from November 2008; prior to that information is published quarterly.

Number of households receiving housing benefit by English region and country: August 2006 to May 2007

	2006			2007	
	August	*November*	*February*	*May*	*August*
North East	228,350	227,050	228,580	226,820	227,440
North West	516,070	518,390	520,300	518,430	518,560
Yorkshire and the Humber	349,790	350,470	350,910	350,950	349,450
East Midlands	244,910	246,040	246,690	242,660	244,850
West Midlands	366,760	364,250	369,420	368,140	369,570
East	297,060	297,830	300,760	300,150	302,140
London	689,680	694,300	692,600	693,450	698,340
South East	412,680	413,810	414,370	414,600	416,410
South West	288,850	284,830	285,600	286,380	286,210
Wales	201,940	200,040	201,250	200,420	200,690
Scotland	432,210	431,160	429,270	429,880	427,260

Number of household receiving council tax benefit by English region and country: August 2006 to May 2007

	2006			2007	
	August	*November*	*February*	*May*	*August*
North East	295,800	294,660	295,620	294,630	296,640
North West	684,440	684,750	686,640	682,560	682,710
Yorkshire and the Humber	460,250	461,050	461,040	460,700	459,010
East Midlands	337,270	337,730	338,270	336,400	336,230
West Midlands	503,030	501,100	506,650	503,850	504,300
East	386,960	390,610	390,900	391,350	391,780
London	726,740	728,950	728,470	724,440	728,010
South East	500,990	501,720	504,020	502,220	503,910
South West	371,480	367,420	368,810	368,860	368,200
Wales	282,970	281,630	282,240	282,290	281,890
Scotland	537,730	534,680	533,920	529,680	526,400

Notes:

1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in August 2006 - August 2007

Number of households receiving housing benefit by English region and country: November 2008 to May 2009

	2008				2009		
	November	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*
North East	232,450	233,930	236,720	238,220	239,050	240,250	241,280
North West	529,720	530,470	534,050	540,780	544,110	547,530	552,880
Yorkshire and the Humber	361,140	364,170	371,370	371,950	375,480	378,750	381,520
East Midlands	260,730	262,430	265,500	273,330	276,860	278,510	281,350
West Midlands	385,690	388,690	393,880	396,380	402,180	407,220	409,210
East	318,200	321,650	323,600	329,340	332,720	336,170	339,630
London	711,650	714,740	719,260	721,490	728,870	734,180	738,650
South East	439,260	443,920	450,530	456,520	461,450	467,600	469,900
South West	299,850	302,640	310,610	315,550	318,800	323,490	324,470
Wales	210,820	213,230	213,920	217,310	219,570	220,370	221,970
Scotland	419,100	420,900	428,370	434,030	438,440	440,250	443,130

Number of households receiving council tax benefit by English region and country: November 2008 to May 2009

	2008				2009		
	November	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*
North East	296,580	298,850	302,670	306,070	306,300	308,660	309,980
North West	685,800	688,890	691,210	697,360	701,150	706,550	712,430
Yorkshire and the Humber	464,280	469,540	478,700	479,400	483,580	489,680	491,470
East Midlands	349,430	351,770	355,970	365,530	369,600	372,520	375,020
West Midlands	514,480	519,000	525,170	529,140	535,760	542,740	544,370
East	405,300	409,460	411,890	417,640	421,560	426,650	429,980
London	728,320	731,110	734,670	735,890	740,220	747,880	751,040
South East	520,140	525,710	534,380	541,100	546,380	554,700	556,400
South West	377,750	380,670	391,730	396,310	399,260	405,690	406,240
Wales	289,440	292,250	293,340	298,000	300,840	302,720	304,000
Scotland	520,760	523,430	531,030	534,930	541,940	544,190	547,300

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Council tax benefit figures exclude second adult rebates.
6. Please visit:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/Methodology_revision_webpage.pdf
for an understanding of improvements in methodology for housing benefit/council tax benefit caseload National Statistics.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will consider the merits of securing accreditation of her Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if she will make a statement. [295717]

Jim Knight: Jobcentre Plus contact centre directorate, and contact centres within Pensions, Disability and Carers Service have all received accreditation through the Customer Contact Association (CCA).

DWP took the decision to use the CCA for its external accreditation as it is the professional body for the call and contact centre industry. The CCA membership reflects the highest standards of staff care and customer service and is seen as an independent organisation with over 600 public and private sector members. It also promotes best practice and professional development through a wide range of benefits and services.

Over and above complying with the recommendations set out by Sir David Varney (in his "Service transformation: A better service for citizens and businesses, a better deal for taxpayers", published in December 2006), accreditation to the CCA standard enables DWP to deliver higher standards of customer service and greater operational efficiency by achieving consistent, standard operational processes in all its contact centres.

Employment and Support Allowance: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Mid-Bedfordshire constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been refused employment and support allowance since October 2008. [295419]

Jim Knight: The information is not available.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to ensure that under 25 year olds in Norwich North constituency are provided with an employment or training opportunity within one year of becoming unemployed. [296157]

Jim Knight: The Government have increased support for young people from day one of jobseeker's allowance claims. From early 2010, the Young Persons Guarantee will ensure that, before 12 months on jobseeker's allowance, all 18 to 24-year-olds will be guaranteed a job, training or meaningful activity.

The Future Jobs Fund, part of the Young Persons Guarantee announced in the Budget, will create new jobs for the long-term unemployed, particularly young adults and those in unemployment hotspots. This initiative will create 150,000 jobs, of which 100,000 will be targeted at young adults who will be eligible for jobs from the fund in their tenth month of unemployment, and 50,000 will be focused on unemployment hotspots. Jobs in the latter are available to all of the long-term unemployed irrespective of their age.

There are no specific bids for Norwich, North. The bid for Norfolk county council is currently creating 356 jobs between October 2009 and March 2010, which includes jobs in Norwich (as the first round of awards are initially for delivery over a six month period). National bids may also create jobs in this area.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the Future Jobs Fund has been allocated to bids in *(a)* Basingstoke, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in 2009-10. [296419]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* It is not possible to state how much of the Future Jobs Fund has been allocated to bids in Basingstoke, Hampshire and England. This information is commercially sensitive.

There are no specific bids for Basingstoke. The bid for Hampshire county council is currently creating 398 jobs between October 2009 and March 2010, which includes jobs in Basingstoke (as the first round of awards are initially for delivery over a six-month period). National bids may also create jobs in this area.

The £1 billion Future Jobs Fund will create 150,000 jobs. To date, around 60,000 jobs have already been approved and the first jobs have actually started.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the Future Jobs Fund has been allocated to the creation of 50,000 jobs in unemployment hotspots; what criteria her Department uses to define an unemployment hotspot; and what the eligibility criteria for applications for such posts are. [295282]

Jim Knight: The proportion of jobs in each bid targeted at those living in areas of high unemployment will be negotiated with successful bidders, during the Grant Award period. Therefore, complete information is not available at this time.

Unemployment hotspots are defined as areas of high unemployment, where the rate of claimant unemployment is at least 1.5 percentage points above the national average. Our assumption is that approximately one-third of the £1 billion will be allocated to hotspot areas.

Jobs in areas of high unemployment will not be restricted to 18-24 year olds approaching the 10 month point of their Jobseeker's Allowance claim. Customers claiming other out of work benefits for at least 39 weeks and living in the specified area will be eligible to apply for these jobs.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated cost per job was of each successful bid proposal under the Future Jobs Fund. [297347]

Jim Knight: As the number of jobs being created and costs vary between bids, the average unit cost per job will change with each funding round. The estimated average cost is expected to be between £6,300 to £6,500 per job over the life of the fund.

Future Jobs Fund: Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs she expects to be created under the Future Jobs Fund in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Inverness in the next 12 months; and what categories of job she expects to be created. [296833]

Jim Knight: The Future Jobs Fund is creating 150,000 jobs across the UK, depending on the quality of the bids received. There is no specific allocation of numbers to Scotland, the Highlands or Inverness. In total 3,359 jobs have been funded for the six months from October 2009 to March 2010 in Scotland. The first round of awards is initially for delivery over a six month period. Of these, 1,452 jobs will be created by the bids from SCVO, Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Salvation Army and may include jobs in the Highlands and Inverness. However, it is not yet possible to specify job numbers in individual areas. The bidding process is ongoing and in the future we may receive other bids to create jobs in these regions.

The types of jobs being created are: warehouse assistants; stores and workshop assistants; drivers; retail and sales assistants; furniture assembly and production; conservation; landscaping; footpath construction; residential; and, family and day care assistants.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* original estimate of expenditure on and *(b)* actual expenditure on local housing allowance was in each financial year since its introduction. [293971]

Helen Goodman: Out-turn data for 2008-09 will be published shortly after the pre-Budget report.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much expenditure from allowing claimants to receive more in local housing allowance than they have to pay in rent the Government *(a)* has incurred in each year since the introduction of the allowance and *(b)* is expected to incur in 2009-10. [294059]

Helen Goodman: The local housing allowance was rolled out nationally to new claims and to those who move address from 7 April 2008.

The Department has aggregate expenditure information for 2008-09 on local housing allowance so cannot give the actual value of expenditure incurred from allowing claimants to receive more in local housing allowance than they have to pay in rent.

The table shows the current estimate of the additional expenditure which may have been incurred in 2008-09 and is expected to occur in 2009-10.

Estimated cost of allowing claimants to receive more in local housing allowance than they have to pay in rent

	£ million
2008-09	60
2009-10	180

Source:
Budget 2009 estimates

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to a number of assumptions and estimates are sensitive to small changes in these assumptions.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of local housing allowance claimants had their allowance paid directly to their *(a)* social and *(b)* private landlord in each quarter since the allowance was introduced. [296830]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* This information is not available.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received local housing allowance in England in each quarter since the allowance was introduced. [296926]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The available information is in the table.

Number of recipients of local housing allowance: England, November 2008 to May 2009

	Local housing allowance tenants
November 2008	358,740
February 2009	481,640
May 2009	602,550

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
4. LHA does not include recipients with unknown tenure type.
5. Local housing allowance tenants may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 6 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
6. Please visit
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/
Methodology_revision_webpage.pdf
for an understanding of improvements in methodology for housing benefit/council tax benefit case load National Statistics.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has made a recent estimate of the number of recipients of housing benefit who have been unable to meet their rent costs as a consequence of the withdrawal of benefit on entry to employment. [297228]

Helen Goodman: The Department has no such data.

Housing Benefit: St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in St. Albans constituency were in receipt of housing benefit at the latest date for which figures are available. [297591]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Industrial Health and Safety: Sellafield

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to Sellafield Ltd. on meeting the Inspectorate's specifications in respect of safety at legacy ponds and silos at the Sellafield site. [255997]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 490-91W.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Jobcentre Plus National Workload Projection updates are for the most recent four quarters, broken down by the smallest possible geographical area. [276441]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 May 2009]:* Available information has been placed in the Library.

The most recent four quarters are July 2008, October 2008, January 2009 and April 2009. No geographical area breakdown was produced in January 2009.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal advisers have been employed in jobcentres in each of the last 10 years. [271624]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many personal advisers have been employed in Jobcentres in each of the last 10 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information is only available from 2003/04. The following table shows the number of advisers for each year from 2003/04 to 2009/10. These figures represent an average of staff deployed in personal adviser activities across each year.

The table reports a reducing trend in personal adviser numbers over the period. That reflects a decline in unemployment levels. However, as unemployment has increased, this has resulted in additional personal advisers being recruited during the second half of 2008/09. As at May 2009, Jobcentre Plus had 10,458 advisers in post and more are currently being recruited.

Jobcentre Plus personal advisers

	Full-time equivalents
2003-04	10,159
2004-05	10,515
2005-06	10,259
2006-07	9,275
2007-08	9,235
2008-09	9,425
2009-10[1]	10,193

[1] Figure is average staff deployed between April 2009 and May 2009.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what evaluation she has made of the effectiveness of Jobcentre Plus; and what recent steps have been taken to improve the performance of Jobcentre Plus in enabling people to obtain employment. [293937]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions uses independent experts to research and evaluate the effectiveness of its labour market programmes. This evidence is published in the Department's Research Report series, which can be found at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/

Jobcentre Plus effectiveness is specifically assessed using a range of monthly targets. These targets are designed to increase productivity, efficiency and effectiveness. The Department for Work and Pensions regularly reviews these targets and progress towards them. More details including performance against targets can be found at:

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/jcp/Aboutus/Jobcentreplusperformance/2009_-_10_Targets/index.html

Jobcentre Plus has deployed extra resources to deliver services to customers following announcements in the pre-Budget report and Budget 2009. It has increased front line staffing by around 15,000. The people who have been recruited are employed on a wide range of customer facing roles, providing support to customers through job search advice and benefit processing.

Jobcentre Plus has also introduced a wide range of new measures. It has:

strengthened and expanded the Rapid Response Service which offers help and support even before redundancy. Since November 2008, more than 3,000 employers have accepted support offered by the Rapid Response Service.

extended the help available through Local Employment Partnerships to provide help for the newly unemployed. It met its target of finding jobs for 250,000 priority customers a year early. In September 2009, Government announced a new target to get another 500,000 people into work through local employment partnerships by the end of 2010.

provided additional support from day one, including help for the newly unemployed to get up to date with the latest job search techniques.

introduced extra help for customers at the start of a claim, giving them advice within three days of claiming, plus extra help for professionals and executives. At six months, customers are offered recruitment subsidies, work-focused training or volunteering options, and help to start a business.

Budget 2009 included a significant new package of support for people, particularly young adults, and included an additional £1.1 billion for a new Future Jobs Fund and a Young Person's Guarantee—a guaranteed offer of a job, work-focused training, or other activity to all 18 to 24-year-olds before they have reached the 12 month stage of their claim to Jobseeker's Allowance. Furthermore, over 150 top British employers are supporting Backing Young Britain, a national campaign to create new opportunities for thousands of young people during the recession.

Jobseeker's Allowance

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency have been in receipt of the allowance continuously since 1997. [295441]

Jim Knight: The total number of jobseeker claimants who have been in receipt of the allowance since 1997 is 390 in Great Britain. The numbers in each constituency are very small and once rounded to the nearest 10, for disclosure control, will be predominately zero.

Means Tested Benefits

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people who did not claim a means-tested benefit to which they were entitled in the last 12 months; what estimate she has made of the amount of money in means-tested benefit which was not claimed by such people; and if she will make a statement. [289763]

Jim Knight: The latest estimates of the numbers entitled to but not receiving income related benefits and of the amounts of unclaimed income related benefits are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08". A copy has been placed in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 21 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss A. S. Tame. [297630]

Jim Knight: Following an extensive search of departmental records, no trace can be found of my right hon. Friend's correspondence with regard to Miss A. S. Tame. If my right hon. Friend would care to write to the Secretary of State again, she will be happy to respond.

National Insurance: Foreign Workers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what procedures her Department follows to revoke national insurance numbers from those whose right to work in the UK has expired; [294165]

(2) what steps her Department takes to ensure that foreign nationals awarded national insurance numbers cannot continue to use those numbers once their student and work visas have expired. [294167]

Jim Knight: A national insurance number is not sufficient to demonstrate an entitlement to work. Employers must carry out a specified document check on any job applicant's entitlement to work. Most foreign nationals will demonstrate their entitlement to be employed through their national passport. For migrant workers with a temporary immigration status, this specified check must be repeated not less than every 12 months.

The Department for Work and Pensions conducts thorough identity and immigration status checks on applications for national insurance numbers from foreign nationals. An individual who has no right to be in or work in the UK and applies for a national insurance number will be refused.

The national insurance number is an administrative reference number used for benefits, tax and national insurance contribution purposes. A national insurance number does not confer any right to benefits, or demonstrate an entitlement to work.

National insurance numbers, once allocated, are not revoked except in very limited, specified circumstances, such as where duplicate numbers have been issued. This is because a national insurance number, even if only used for a limited period, links an individual to their national insurance contributions record which may be relevant to any future claim to contributory benefits or state pension.

Anyone who has previously acquired a national insurance number but no longer has the right to live, work or study in the UK does not have access to the benefits system and possession of a national insurance number would not enable a claim to succeed.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were withdrawn from those deemed to be illegal immigrants in each year since 1997. [294174]

Jim Knight: A National Insurance number is not sufficient to demonstrate an entitlement to work.

The Department for Work and Pensions conducts thorough identity and immigration status checks on applications for National Insurance numbers from foreign nationals. An individual who has no right to be in or work in the UK and applies for a National Insurance number will be refused.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not withdraw National Insurance numbers once allocated except in very limited circumstances, such as where duplicate numbers have been issued. This is because a National Insurance number, even if only used for a limited period, links an individual to their National Insurance contributions record which may be relevant to any future claim to contributory benefits or state pension.

Anyone who has previously acquired a National Insurance number but no longer has the right to live, work or study in the UK does not have access to the benefits system and the use of a National Insurance number in isolation is not sufficient to obtain benefits.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of people in possession of a national insurance number and working beyond the expiration of their student visa. [294175]

Jim Knight: The information is not available.

A National Insurance number is not sufficient to demonstrate an entitlement to work. However, where the UK Border Agency has evidence that students are breaching their immigration conditions, they will investigate and take appropriate action. This can include further applications for leave to remain in the UK being refused or removal from the UK.

New Deal Schemes: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency have participated in a New Deal scheme in each year since 2004. [295416]

Jim Knight: The table shows the number of spells started on New Deal schemes in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency since 2004. Some individuals may have had more than one start:

	Total starters (spells)
2004	230
2005	210
2006	230
2007	220
2008	220
2009	110

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Westminster Parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
3. The year of starting is the calendar year of starting the New Deal.
4. Starters (spells) data are not available for New Deal 50 Plus or New Deal for Partners so Starters (individuals) data have been used instead for these schemes. This means that for these schemes only an individual's most recent spell on that New Deal is recorded.
5. Data for New Deal for Partners is available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1989).
6. Latest data is to May 2009.

Source:
The Department for Work and Pensions Information Division.
The figures are available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Post Office Card Account: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of state benefit payments to residents of North East Fife constituency were paid into Post Office card accounts in each of the last five years. [293977]

Helen Goodman: The figures are not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the precise number and percentage of benefit accounts paid into Post Office card accounts in the North East Fife constituency in each of the last five years. Benefit accounts will have multiple transactions and may include payment of more than one state benefit.

	All payment types	*All POCA*	*Percentage paid by POCA*
2004	23,900	1,580	7
2005	24,120	4,900	20
2006	26,630	5,110	19
2007	26,810	4,870	18
2008	27,310	4,540	17

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole per cent.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures are as at September in each of the five years, 2004 to 2008.
4. Figures refer to payment accounts. Customers with more than one account will be counted for each account.
5. All benefits and pensions are included but child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and War Pensions are now administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.
6. 2004 was a transitional year in the move from order books to Direct Payment

Source:
DWP, Information Directorate, 100 per cent. data

Recruitment: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many employers have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* secured funding from her Department to recruit people who have been unemployed for more than six months in (i) Basingstoke, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England; [296418]

(2) what the cost to her Department has been of funding for employers to recruit people who have been unemployed for over six months since the inception of that funding scheme in *(a)* Basingstoke, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England. [296421]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 October 2009]*: Information on the number of employers applying for and receiving payments through the recruitment subsidy is not available in the format requested. Many of the employers claiming the subsidy have outlets throughout the country, and make their claims on an aggregated basis; it is not possible to identify where the individuals for whom they are claiming are employed.

On 14 October 2009, official statistics were released on the take-up of the Six Month Offer across the UK. This showed that 5,990 jobseeker's allowance customers had used the recruitment subsidy between April and July this year. Provisional data for August also showed that a further 1,500 jobseeker's allowance customers have used the recruitment subsidy.

Information on the cost to the Department of funding for employers to recruit people who have been unemployed for over six months is not available.

The Government have pledged £0.5 billion over two years from April 2009 to fund the additional support from six months, which includes the recruitment subsidy for employers.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the change to the number of pensioners eligible for a full state pension was following the reduction in the number of qualifying years required. [286336]

Angela Eagle: The reduction to 30 in the number of qualifying years required for entitlement to a full basic state pension will only take effect for people reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010. As a result of this and other changes in the 2007 pension reforms we estimate that an extra 60,000 people reaching state pension age in 2010-11 will be entitled to a full basic state pension.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the state pension as a proportion of gross domestic product in each year since 2005. [297409]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the following table:

Expenditure on state pension as a proportion of gross domestic product

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
State pension (£ million)	51,423	53,663	57,594	61,632
Gross domestic product (£ million)	1,270,835	1,346,209	1,417,797	1,435,006
State pension as a proportion of GDP (percentage)	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.3

Notes:
Figures are for Great Britain.
Figures are rounded to the nearest million and are in cash terms.
State pension expenditure for 2008-09 only is provisional outturn, other years is outturn.
State pension comprises basic, additional and Category D.
Source:
GDP figures:
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/gdp_deflators.xls
State Pension expenditure from DWP benefit expenditure tables, Table 3:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/Alltables_Budget2009_Values.xls

Unemployed: Training

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department has issued to Jobcentre Plus staff on referrals to *(a)* employment subsidy vouchers, *(b)* train to gain, *(c)* training places, *(d)* volunteering and *(e)* help for self-employment on offer as part of the six month offer to the unemployed; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [271713]

Jim Knight: Guidance to support the six month offer was made available to Jobcentre Plus staff via the DWP internal website on 23 March 2009. The guidance has been constantly reviewed and updated in line with emerging policy.

Final guidance on the bulk payment process for the recruitment subsidy voucher was issued to Jobcentre Plus staff on 24 April and was also made available via the DWP internal website from 27 April. Interim guidance was made available to Jobcentre Plus staff prior to this, pending final decisions on the process design.

The written guidance has been supplemented with a range of other products for Jobcentre Plus staff.

I have arranged for a copy of the guidance issued to support implementation of the six month offer to be placed in the Library.

Widowed People: Social Security Benefits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many widows and widowers *(a)* in total and *(b)* under 35 years old have received (i) the bereavement payment, (ii) widowed parents' allowance and (iii) bereavement allowance in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [295605]

Helen Goodman: The available information is shown in the following tables:

Bereavement benefits by type of bereavement benefit for recipients under age 35, Great Britain

As at February each year	*Total*	*Bereavement allowance not age related*	*Bereavement allowance age related*	*Widowed parents' allowance with dependants*	*Widowed parents' allowance without dependants*
2005	2,540	[1]—	[1]—	2,490	50
2006	2,620	[1]—	[1]—	2,580	50
2007	2,600	[1]—	[1]—	2,560	30
2008	2,600	[1]—	[1]—	2,570	30
2009	2,620	[1]—	[1]—	2,610	30

Bereavement benefits by type of bereavement benefit for recipients of all ages, Great Britain.

As at February each year	*Total*	*Bereavement allowance not age related*	*Bereavement allowance age related*	*Widowed parents' allowance with dependants*	*Widowed parents' allowance without dependants*
2005	53,320	13,430	8,970	30,450	480
2006	56,450	13,440	8,530	34,040	440
2007	58,190	12,650	8,160	36,980	400
2008	58,930	11,570	7,570	39,430	370
2009	60,720	11,450	7,280	41,660	330

[1] Nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. 'Widowed parents' allowance without dependants' includes women who were pregnant when widowed.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 5 November 2009

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 647W, on the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the schedule for the establishment of a Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy; when she expects the Committee to first meet; and if she will make a statement. [297921]

Barbara Keeley: I hope that motions to establish the new Joint Committee will be put to the House soon.

TREASURY

Advertising

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1891W, on advertising, how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs spent on advertising in 2008-09; and what advertising campaigns were undertaken by each such organisation in that year. [289100]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Spending on advertising in 2008-09 by HM Treasury, its agencies and HMRC is shown in the following table:

Organisation	*Purpose of advertising*	*Net spending (ex vat) £000*
HM Treasury	Recruitment advertising	445
	Promoting the 'Moneymadeclear' service in autumn 2008 and the Money Guidance pathfinder, which offers free impartial generic advice on personal finance	2,250
DMO	Gilt auctions, recruitment	158
OGC	Government Procurement Graduate recruitment scheme	38
HMRC	Child Trust Fund, Compliance, Health in Pregnancy Grant, Money Laundering, Products of Animal Origin, Self Assessment, Students, Tax Credits, Tax for Business	17,890

Alcohol: Excise Duties

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely effects on levels of fraud in respect of alcohol duty of the setting of minimum prices for alcohol. [297958]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No assessment has been made of the likely effects on levels of fraud in respect of alcohol duty of the setting of minimum prices for alcohol.

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the likely effects on his Department's policies of an agreement at the Copenhagen climate change conference. [297116]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Coinage: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the purported face value was of counterfeit coins seized in each year since 1997. [297174]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following counterfeit £1 coins have been returned to the Royal Mint:

	Total withdrawals
2003-04	85,000
2004-05	117,500
2005-06	84,500
2006-07	153,800
2007-08	97,000
2008-09	891,956

The Treasury does not have figures on withdrawals prior to 2003, when the counterfeit rate was estimated to be less than 1 per cent.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the purported face value of counterfeit coins in circulation. [297175]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent survey conducted by the Royal Mint found that its sample contained a £1 coin counterfeit rate of 2.52 per cent. or approximately £37 million.

The Royal Mint does not currently undertake regular surveys for other denominations. It is widely believed (by the Royal Mint, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and industry partners) that there is not a significant counterfeit issue with any other denominations.

Some £2 counterfeit coins have been returned to the Mint but the quantities are minimal and they are of a poor quality.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1391W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library an electronic version in Excel format of the information on the value of properties with each individual dwellinghouse code and each value significant code for all local authority areas in England. [297500]

Ian Pearson: An electronic version, in Excel format, has been placed in the Freedom of Information Disclosure Log on the Valuation Office Agency's website. A link to the information is as follows:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications/access-to-information/Dwellings_assigned_with_each_individual_dwellinghouse_code_2-09-09.xls

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people his Department employs to maintain its social media and social networking accounts; and at what annual cost to the public purse; [297159]

(2) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the last 12 months. [297160]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The maintenance of these services is carried out as part of the e-communication team's management of the Treasury's websites. Therefore, no specific costs are apportioned to these services.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in each of the last 12 months. [297172]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The maintenance of HM Treasury's YouTube channel is carried out as part of the e-communication team's management of HM Treasury's web sites. Therefore, no specific costs are apportioned to these services. I also refer the right hon. Member to the answers earlier today.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had on the provision of free financial advice to *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* others who have lost money following investment in Equitable Life; and whether he plans to review the present level of advice provided. [297120]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government, jointly with the Financial Services Authority, are piloting a free money guidance service, called 'Moneymadeclear', in the north-west and north-east of England. The Government intend for the service to be rolled out nationally from spring 2010. The pilot is being delivered by a number of partner organisations including those used and trusted by older people, such as Age Concern and Citizens Advice. Covering a wide range of personal finance topics, money guidance aims to help people make informed financial decisions. It can also refer people on to more specialist sources of help such as the Pensions Advisory Service or independent financial advice.

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the UK's biodiesel market of the proposed removal of the 20 pence per litre duty differential on biofuel from April 2010; and if he will make a statement; [297195]

(2) whether his Department has carried out an impact assessment of the proposed removal of the 20 pence per litre duty differential on biofuel from April 2010; and if he will make a statement; [297034]

(3) whether his Department has conducted an environmental impact assessment of the Government's proposal to remove the 20 pence per litre duty differential on biofuel from April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [297033]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Chancellor sets environment and transport tax rates in the normal Budget process based on the overall fiscal judgment. In making these decisions, he takes all relevant fiscal, economic, social and environmental factors into account. HM Treasury keeps all taxes under review.

It is Government policy that proposals imposing or reducing recurrent administrative costs on businesses or the third sector require publication of an impact assessment. A change in tax rate does not impose or reduce administrative costs and therefore an impact assessment is not usually published.

Table 6.2 of Budget 2008 sets out the environmental impact of Budget measures

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_chapter6.pdf

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which legislative provision authorises the Financial Services Authority to require qualified independent financial advisors to submit themselves for qualification under fresh criteria. [297707]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Under section 41(2) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), the Financial Services Authority (FSA) is required, when giving or varying permission, or imposing or varying any requirement, to ensure that the person concerned will satisfy, and continue to satisfy, the threshold conditions in relation to all of the regulated activities for which he has or will have permission.

The threshold conditions, defined in section 41(1), include the requirement that the person concerned is "fit and proper" in all the circumstances (schedule 6, paragraph 5). The FSA may raise the standards by which this criteria is tested and apply the new criteria to advisers who are already authorised under FSMA. Indeed, section 41(3) expressly states that the FSA, as the authority and having due regard to its duty under section 41(2), may take:

> "such steps as it considers are necessary, in relation to a particular authorised person, in order to secure its regulatory objective of the protection of consumers."

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Financial Services Authority has made of the number of qualified independent financial advisers who will not meet the criteria for fresh qualification; and if he will make a statement. [297708]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1285W.

Financial Services: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which companies have referred the matter of a fine for failing to treat customers fairly to the Financial Services and Markets Tribunal since the implementation of the treating customers fairly initiative; and if he will make a statement; [297992]

(2) how many fines levied by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) against companies for failing to treat customers fairly have been *(a)* paid in full and *(b)* reduced under the FSA's executive settlement procedures since the implementation of the treating customers fairly initiative; which companies paid reduced amounts; and how much each such company paid; [297993]

(3) how many final notices have been issued by the Financial Services Authority against companies in relation to failures to treat customers fairly since the implementation of the treating customers fairly initiative; on what date each such notice was issued; and if he will make a statement; [297994]

(4) against which companies fines have been levied by the Financial Services Authority for failing to treat customers fairly since the implementation of the treating customers fairly initiative; what fine was levied in each case; and if he will make a statement; [297995]

(5) how many customer redress programmes mandated as a consequence of a Financial Services Authority (FSA) assessment that a company has failed to treat customers fairly are underway; which companies are undertaking such programmes; what proportion of customers assessed by the FSA as eligible for redress under each programme have *(a)* made applications for and *(b)* received redress; how much was (i) claimed and (ii) awarded in each case; and if he will make a statement. [297996]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The matters raised in these questions are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 10 August 2009 concerning his constituent, Mrs Alan Tritton of Great Leighs, Chelmsford. [297827]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Receipt of the original correspondence of 10 August 2009 could not be traced. Following discussions with the hon. Member's office on 29 October 2009, a copy was provided. A reply will be sent as soon as possible.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether air passenger duty arrangements apply to private jets; and if he will make a statement. [297223]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 1994, privately owned aircraft are exempt from APD provided they do not carry passengers for reward.

The inclusion of aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme has now been agreed for 2012. Most aircraft, including private jets, with a certified maximum take-off mass of 5.7 tonnes or greater will be required to participate in the scheme.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Floods: West Midlands

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's priorities are for the programme of flood defences in the West Midlands. [297638]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The implementation of the Environment Agency's River Tame Flood Risk Management Strategy will reduce flood risk to 2,850 residential and commercial properties. Capital works in other locations including Upton upon Severn at Worcester, Prestbury at Cheshire, Horsbere Brook at Gloucester, Badsey Brook at Worcester and Bedworth near Coventry are also a priority.

To ensure maintenance funding is directed to where it is needed most, a target has been introduced for high flood-risk areas. 96 per cent. of flood defence assets (including those owned by third parties) must be in a serviceable condition by the end of March 2010 in high risk areas. The Environment Agency's maintenance budget is driven by the need to achieve this target.

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set a date for ending the use of fluoride-based greenhouse gases in refrigeration units; and if he will make a statement. [297750]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK is working closely with its EU partners to achieve an international HFC emissions reduction arrangement as one of the outcomes of the Copenhagen climate conference next month. Such an arrangement would include the fluorinated greenhouse gases used in refrigeration units. Under this arrangement, the parties to the Montreal protocol would undertake the detailed negotiation of dates by when phase-down must be achieved during their meetings next year.

River Trent: Pollution

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* cleaning up the recent discharge of cyanide and raw sewage into the river Trent and *(b)* restoring habitats affected by the discharge. [297495]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency is still assessing the environmental impact of the recent discharge into the river Trent and identifying any further clean-up or restoration work required. The cost of this work is not yet known but will be calculated in due course. If a successful prosecution results from the Environment Agency's investigation into the cause of the discharge, it will be seeking to recover some if not all of its costs from those responsible in order to minimise the cost to the public purse.

Seeds: Imports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which countries his Department permits the import of ash seedlings and transplants. [296512]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Seedlings and transplants of the genus *Fraxinus* L (Ash) may be imported into the UK from any country provided that they meet the requirements of the EC Plant Health Directive (2000/29/EC). The directive requires that ash seedlings and transplants imported from a third country must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate, to confirm that specific conditions have been met, such as freedom from certain pests and diseases, soil, plant debris, leaves, flowers and fruit. Plants are also checked at import by inspectors from the Food and Environment Research Agency (in England and Wales). When ash seedlings and transplants are introduced from another EU member state they must be from a place of production known to be free from certain pests and diseases.

If the ash seedlings and transplants are intended for forestry purposes, then the requirements of the Forest Reproductive Materials Directive 1999/105/EC would also apply. These are the responsibility of the Forestry Commission in Great Britain.

Trees: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to prevent the importation of tree diseases via ash *(a)* seedlings and *(b)* transplants. [297451]

Dan Norris: Seedlings and transplants of the genus *Fraxinus* L (Ash) may be imported into the UK only if they meet the requirements of the EC Plant Health Directive (2000/29/EC). The directive requires that ash seedlings and transplants imported from a third country must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate, to confirm that specific conditions have been met, such as freedom from certain pests and diseases, soil, plant debris, leaves, flowers and fruit. Plants are also checked at import by inspectors from the Food and Environment Research Agency (in England and Wales). When ash seedlings and transplants are introduced from another EU member state they must be from a place of production known to be free from certain pests and diseases.

TRANSPORT

A50: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the concrete surface of the A50 Doveridge bypass to *(a)* reach end-of-life and *(b)* be resurfaced; and what estimate has been made of the cost of resurfacing. [297987]

Chris Mole: The concrete surface that is in place for the A50 Doveridge bypass was designed to last a minimum of 40 years. The bypass was constructed between 1996 and 1998 and is expected to last until at least 2036-38.

The condition of the bypass is monitored regularly and we do not expect the bypass to be resurfaced until it has reached its design life.

No official cost estimate has been made for the cost of resurfacing the bypass.

Air Transport Users' Council: Finance

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department is providing to the Air Transport Users' Council in 2009-10. [297649]

Paul Clark: The Air Transport Users' Council is not funded by the Government. It receives its funding from the Civil Aviation Authority via a specific charge which the authority makes on airlines. Its budget for 2009-10 is £750,000.

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what arrangements he has put in place to enable airlines to reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions; and what arrangements he has put in place to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* report on those airlines' performance in reducing emissions. [296469]

Paul Clark: The inclusion of aviation in the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) enables the aviation sector to take responsibility for its carbon dioxide emissions in the most cost-effective way. All flights departing from and arriving at EU airports will be included in the EU ETS from 2012. The EU ETS caps total emissions to a fixed limit, with operators required to surrender allowances for each reporting year to cover their total emissions. Any increase in emissions above these levels must be matched by emissions reductions elsewhere within the aviation sector or in another sector within the wider ETS. Aircraft operators will be encouraged to reduce their CO_2 emissions through investment in greener aircraft technology and by developing the use of alternative fuels. In the UK, the Environment Agency will regulate the aviation EU ETS in England and Wales, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency regulating operators in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively. Aircraft operators covered by the EU ETS must monitor their CO_2 emissions from 1 January 2010 and each year have this information independently verified, then report data to their regulator.

In January of this year, the Government announced a target to bring UK aviation CO_2 emissions in 2050 to below 2005 levels and has asked the Committee on Climate Change to advise on this. The committee is due to report by December 2009. Once the Government have received the committee's advice, they will determine the best basis for taking the target forward.

The European Commission is considering the utility of different options for EU-wide measures that address aviation emissions of NOx (oxides of nitrogen). Certification standards for NOx emissions are set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The UK takes a leading role in this forum and expects a tightening of these standards to be agreed next year. ICAO has published guidance on emission charges related to local air quality. The Civil Aviation Act 2006 permitted such charges to be levied and the operators of Heathrow, Gatwick and Luton now impose a charge related to the certification performance of landing aircraft to incentivise the use of cleaner aircraft.

Bus Services: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the percentage change in levels of bus usage in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the St Albans parliamentary constituency was in each year since 1996. [297590]

Mr. Khan: Between 1996-97 and 2008-09 the number of local bus passenger journeys in England increased by 20 per cent. Over the same time period the number of local bus passenger journeys in Hertfordshire increased by 15 per cent. (these should be treated with caution as data quality varies between local authorities). Figures for the St. Albans parliamentary constituency are not compiled. Year by year figures are available in the table.

The aggregation and estimation techniques used in compiling these statistics are currently under review. Figures until 2006-07 are based on an old calculation method, whereas those for 2007-08 and 2008-09 use a newer method. This is still being tested and therefore the data are provisional. Upon completion of this review data for earlier years may be revised.

Total passenger journeys in England and Hertfordshire, 1996-97 to 2008-09

	(a) England		*(b) Hertfordshire*	
	Journeys (million)	*Year on year change (percentage)*	*Journeys (million)*	*Year on year change (percentage)*
1996-97	3,844	—	27	—
1997-98	3,859	0.4	35	28
1998-99	3,808	-1.3	31	-12
1999-2000	3,804	-0.1	35	15
2000-01	3,842	1.0	35	-1
2001-02	3,881	1.0	34	-1
2002-03	3,964	2.1	31	-10
2003-04	4,087	3.1	31	-1
2004-05	4,140	1.3	30	-4
2005-06	4,196	1.3	27	-9
2006-07	4,470	6.5	29	8
2007-08[1]	4,530	1.3	27	-9
2007-08[1, 2]	4,522	—	26	—
2008-09[2]	4,594	1.6	31	18

[1] 2007-08 figures for both the old and new method of calculating passenger journeys are shown, in order to show how the growth rate between 1996-97 and 2008-09 is calculated.

[2] Provisional.

Note:

Blank row indicates break in series.

Bus Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pensioners who are entitled to a concessionary bus pass in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area. [297789]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not maintain records of how many people in local authorities are eligible for concessionary bus passes as concessionary travel is administered locally by Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs).

All older people aged 60 and over are entitled to receive a concessionary bus pass. The Department does not hold figures specifically for Peterborough constituency but work that was conducted by the Department prior to the implementation of the national bus concession suggested that as of August 2007, there were 29,894 older people eligible for a concessionary bus pass in Peterborough city council.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criteria are used to determine the eligibility to register for the local residents scheme for the Dartford crossing; what recent representations he has received supporting a change in such criteria; and if he will make a statement. [296570]

Mr. Khan: The eligibility criteria for the local discount scheme are that applicants should be residents of the local authorities of Dartford or Thurrock. It was decided that the Dartford and Thurrock local authorities should be eligible as these areas are most affected by the Dartford crossing. Our decision also reflected the factors which underpinned the reasons behind the previous regime, whereby a proportion of revenues from the crossing was made available to deliver integrated transport policies in the Dartford and Thurrock areas.

The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency have within the last six months received 12 representations requesting a change to these criteria.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294694]

Chris Mole: Overnight accommodation expenditure, exceeding £500, for Department for Transport Ministers *(a)* are available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Expenditure on overnight accommodation by Department for Transport officials *(b)* can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Exhaust Systems

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what factors the Government considered when opting out of the provisions of European Directive 92/97/EEC on type approved exhausts; and what assessment was made of the effect on *(a)* the economy and *(b)* the environment of securing such an opt-out. [296411]

Mr. Khan: The United Kingdom does not have an opt-out from directive 92/97/EEC. The directive sets voluntary standards for the type approval of replacement silencers. These standards are designed to ensure access to market in EU member states where specific approval requirements for replacement silencers are imposed. The UK does not impose such approval requirements.

Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has contributed to the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation in each of the last 12 years. [297455]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport's records show that payments to the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation Ltd started in 2000 when the company was incorporated. It became ITSO Ltd. in 2004. Up to the end of the last financial year, the total payments to the organisation were as follows:

	Total spend (£) exc. VAT
2000-01	25,000
2001-02	20,000
2002-03	1,104,647
2003-04	2,732,884
2004-05	345,756
2005-06	529,947
2006-07	228,158
2007-08	769,884
2008-09	130,650

The payments cover contracts for developing the ITSO specification and environment, providing technical advice, support for developing schemes, attendance at international standards meetings and annual membership fees.

In 1999, the Department awarded a contract to Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive that contributed £104,000 to a project carried out by the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation (prior to its incorporation as a limited company) to develop common specifications for contactless smartcard applications.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on which occasions his Department and its predecessors have, following the decision of the Secretary of State, reimbursed or ameliorated net losses of franchising operators arising from industrial action in accordance with the relevant clauses in each rail franchise agreement. [297415]

Chris Mole: Prior to July 2005 the Strategic Rail Authority was responsible for making decisions about payments associated with net losses of franchising operators arising from industrial action. Since then the Department for Transport has made one payment, which was in October 2006.

Roads: Safety

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of levels of road safety in *(a)* County Durham, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Swindon and *(d)* Barnet in comparison with similar areas. [297840]

Paul Clark: A key comparison between local areas has been the percentage reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSIs) achieved since the 1994 to 1998 period. This measure corresponds to the headline target in the 2000 national road safety strategy.

The table shows the percentage change from the 1994 to 1998 annual average number of KSIs to the 2006 to 2008 annual average number in each of the four areas. It also shows the averages for the regions they are within:

	Percentage change in KSIs from 1994-98 average to 2006-08 average	
	Local authority	*Region LA is within*
Durham	-23	-26 (NE region)
North Yorkshire	-31	-23 (YH)
Swindon	-25	-24 (SW)
Barnet	-44	-43 (London)
Great Britain average	-34	

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which fixed speed camera led to the largest number of speeding tickets being issued in the latest 12-month period for which information is available; and how much was paid in fines as a result of those tickets. [297833]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport holds only information about speed and red light cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. The number of fixed penalty notices issued per fixed camera were not collected. Neither were details of the fines paid.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average cost is of *(a)* installing and *(b)* operating an average speed camera for a year. [297834]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local road safety partnerships. The partnerships are responsible for the purchase, installation and operation of cameras within their areas.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in what urban areas trials of the use of average speed cameras are planned to start in the next six months. [297835]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. The deployment of safety cameras is the responsibility of individual local road safety partnerships. There is no requirement for local road safety partnerships to inform the Department when they propose to introduce average speed cameras. The Department is not itself sponsoring any trials of average speed cameras in urban areas.

Sustrans: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has given Sustrans for *(a)* capital expenditure on and *(b)* maintenance of the walkway between Fallowfield and Audenshaw. [297015]

Mr. Khan: The Fallowfield Path has been funded from a number of sources including the New Opportunities Fund grant to Sustrans from the Lottery, Manchester City Council Planning and Local Transport Plan (LTP) money via the Greater Manchester Metropolitan Area funding, and Sustrans' own resources.

The Department for Transport has given no money for the maintenance of the Path over the last five years as this has been carried out by Sustrans at its own expense.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements relating to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years. [298329]

Mr. Simon: My Department does not have any exclusivity agreements in place for *(a)* hardware or *(b)* software.

Film

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for a national film centre. [297869]

Mr. Simon: I have regular discussions about matters of departmental interest with Cabinet colleagues.

As the Prime Minister announced on 16 October 2009, the Government have committed £45 million to the British Film Institute (BFI) National Film Centre to be built on London's south bank.

Local Press: Government Assistance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to introduce to provide assistance to regional newspapers. [294299]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply

The measures the Government have taken during and following the development of the Digital Britain White Paper to help regional newspapers include:

1. An OFT review of the merger regime for newspapers. This concluded that the existing merger framework as it applies to media in general and local and regional newspapers in particular, is sufficiently robust and flexible to take into account the various considerations that need to be brought to bear;

2. An Audit Commission study of the prevalence and value for money of local authority publicity; and

3. The introduction of independently funded news consortia initially on a pilot basis in England, Wales and Scotland.

The Government are committed to a strong, viable and diverse news media in the nations, locally and in the regions. Ministers continue to welcome meetings from representatives from all parts of the press to discuss their issues at first hand.

Playing Fields

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many playing fields have been *(a)* created and *(b)* lost in each local authority in each year since 1997; in how many cases Sport England was consulted; and what the outcome of that consultation was in each case. [297910]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England's role as a statutory consultant on playing fields only extends to those planning applications for developments affecting existing playing fields. They are not therefore consulted on all planning applications for new playing fields and this data are not held centrally.

Sport England's statistics for the total number of playing field consultations and outcomes since 2001 can be found on their website at:

http://www.sportengland.org

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: Appeals

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to reduce the length of time it takes to process an appeal against an attendance allowance decision for those cases affected by the European Court of Justice decision in Commission of the European Communities *v.* the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, C-299/05, of 18 October 2007. [297133]

Jonathan Shaw: In order to improve and reduce the length of time for processing all cases for these customers, we have identified and submitted a small number of lead cases for tribunal hearings. We have approached the Tribunal Chair requesting staying of appeal on other "linked cases" until the lead cases are finally determined by either the First-tier Tribunal or on further appeal to the Upper Tribunal or a further appellate court, where applicable.

Around 500 customers have currently submitted appeals relating to the past presence test and/or our approach to requests for reinstatement of benefit.

Incapacity Benefit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the number of incapacity benefit claims which will be terminated in each of the next 10 years due to the death of the claimant. [293596]

Jonathan Shaw: Current forecasting models do not distinguish between different reasons for people exiting benefit.

However, historic data can be used to give an indication of the number of benefit claims that might be terminated due to death of the claimant. These indicate that approximately 5 per cent. of off-flows are due to the death of the claimant, or between 8,000 and 9,000 per year.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency were receiving in each of the last 24 months. [297392]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency were receiving jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 24 months. (297392)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of persons claiming JSA resident in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency for each of the last 24 months.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency

	Number
October 2007	720
November 2007	735
December 2007	730
January 2008	845
February 2008	885
March 2008	835
April 2008	740
May 2008	765
June 2008	735
July 2008	785
August 2008	870
September 2008	925
October 2008	985
November 2008	1,110
December 2008	1,250
January 2009	1,450
February 2009	1,700
March 2009	1,760
April 2009	1,665
May 2009	1,640
June 2009	1,645
July 2009	1,620
August 2009	1,600
September 2009	1,455

Note:
Data rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Jobcentreplus Administrative System

Pensioners: Winter Fuel Payments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average percentage of pensioners' energy bills likely to be met by the winter fuel payment in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the Highlands in 2009-10. [296832]

Angela Eagle: It is estimated that the average percentage of pensioners' energy bills likely to be met by the winter fuel payment in 2009-10 in *(a)* the UK and (a) Scotland, are as follows:

	UK		*Scotland*	
	Age 60 to 79	*Age 80 and over*	*Age 60 to 79*	*Age 80 and over*
Winter Fuel Payment amounts (£)	250	400	250	400
Percentage of annual energy bill met by the Winter Fuel Payment	24	41	23	38

(c) The information requested is not available. Additional support is available through Cold Weather Payments for regions that suffer particularly cold weather.

Notes:
1. The Family Spending Survey 2008 is used to determine household expenditure on fuel by age.
2. The difference in energy bills in Scotland and the UK, is calculated by looking at the percentage difference an average household spent on energy bills in 2007.
3. The fuel and light inflation rate, published by the ONS, is used to estimate the energy bills as at September 2009.
4. The Winter Fuel Payment figures include the additional payments for 2009-10.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the ease with which application forms for disability benefits can be completed by young people with disabilities; and if she will make a statement. [293676]

Jonathan Shaw: Most customers who wish to claim employment and support allowance (or incapacity benefit where there was entitlement before 27 October 2008) do so by making a phone call to a Jobcentre Plus contact centre. For customers who have difficulty making a claim by phone, a claim form can be completed instead. Face to face assistance with this is available at Jobcentre Plus offices.

When designing the employment and support allowance claim form, an external research company was commissioned to conduct research on potential customers, Jobcentre Plus advisers and intermediaries. Their findings informed the final design of the form.

In April 2007 the Department introduced a new format disability living allowance claim form for customers aged 16 to 65. Extensive consultation with customer representative groups and rigorous customer research took place during the design, development and testing of the form. The feedback did not indicate any specific concerns regarding the suitability of the form for young people (or any other age group). The new format reached the Plain English Campaign's accreditation standard and consequently attained the Crystal Mark. Subsequent improvements and refinements to the claim form have been based on feedback from customers and their representatives. The latest version was published in September 2008.

We have a regular cycle of review and a commitment to continuous improvement for claim forms.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many British expatriates in each overseas country received a UK state pension from 1997 to 2008. [297123]

Angela Eagle: The information has been placed in the Library.

Unemployed: Young People

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years were unemployed in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the Highlands in each of the last 24 months. [297390]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many young people aged between the ages of 18 and 24 years were unemployed in (a) the UK, (b) Scotland and (c) the Highlands in each of the last 24 months. (297390)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of persons aged between 18 and 24 years resident in the UK and Scotland who were unemployed for the 12 month periods ending June 2007 to the latest available period ending March 2009.

Estimates of unemployment for the requested age band are not available for the Highland local authority due to small sample sizes. As an alternative, in Table 2, we have provided the number of persons, aged between 18 and 24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in the Highland local authority along with UK and Scotland, from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. For comparison purposes, the data have been provided from January 2007 to the latest available period of September 2009.

The unemployment estimate given for the UK has been compiled from the APS to be consistent with the estimate for Scotland, and will therefore differ from the headline unemployment estimates published in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

The estimates in Table 1 are for a subset of the population and are therefore subject to margins of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Table 1.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of unemployed persons aged between 18 and 24 years resident in the UK and Scotland

		Thousand
12 months ending	*United Kingdom*	*Scotland*
June 2007	496	40
September 2007	488	40
December 2007	485	36
March 2008	487	37
June 2008	498	37
September 2008	515	39
December 2008	557	43
March 2009[1]	*590	**44

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV<5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:

Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Number of persons[1] aged between 18 and 24 years resident in Highland, Scotland and the UK claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

	Highland	*Scotland*	*United Kingdom*
January 2007	740	24,705	284,185
February 2007	780	25,715	294,445
March 2007	715	25,175	289,365
April 2007	620	23,525	273,300
May 2007	580	22,605	262,950
June 2007	545	21,935	251,630
July 2007	600	23,135	258,355
August 2007	570	23,400	264,020
September 2007	450	20,860	257,165
October 2007	465	19,380	242,990
November 2007	485	18,920	233,900
December 2007	525	19,245	235,210
January 2008	555	20,840	246,560
February 2008	635	22,455	260,585
March 2008	605	22,250	259,610
April 2008	510	21,520	253,030
May 2008	485	20,975	249,455
June 2008	505	21,640	249,605
July 2008	580	23,995	269,195
August 2008	570	25,765	292,715
September 2008	565	24,235	300,895
October 2008	625	24,475	302,300
November 2008	735	26,240	322,920
December 2008	795	28,140	348,015
January 2009	925	31,240	379,535
February 2009	1,115	36,335	443,200
March 2009	1,130	37,735	460,420
April 2009	1,000	37,130	460,590
May 2009	955	36,660	453,505
June 2009	945	37,650	448,735
July 2009	1,000	40,525	468,990
August 2009	975	41,765	489,630
September 2009	900	37,860	487,880

Notes:

1. Data rounded to nearest 5.
2. Age data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

Unemployment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency had no one in employment in each year since 1997. [297145]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency which had no-one in employment in each year since 1997. (297145).

The available information is provided in the attached tables. Estimates for England and the North East are provided from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets, for the years 1997 to 2009, covering the three months to June in each year, the period at which specially designed household datasets are available.

This information is taken from the annual Statistical Bulletin titled, "Work and worklessness among households" which can be found here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8552

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8552

Estimates for areas within the North East are not available from the LFS household datasets.

Estimates for Tees Valley & Durham and Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland have been provided from the Annual Population Survey (APS), which combines four quarters of the LFS and sample boosts, to produce an annual estimate. Estimates on this basis are available from 2004, the first year the household datasets are available, to 2008, for the calendar year January to December.

Figures for households are based on working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

Number of Workless working-age[1] households in England and North East Region—not seasonally adjusted

		Thousand
April to June each year	*England*	*North East*
1997	2,503	180
1998	2,482	192
1999	2,396	192
2000	2,315	176
2001	2,338	182
2002	2,368	177
2003	2,330	173
2004	2,292	179
2005	2,370	173
2006	2,296	148
2007	2,482	153
2008	2,388	168
2009	2,508	186

[1] A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

Notes:

1. Figures have not been adjusted to include estimates for households with unknown economic activity
2. Excludes households with unknown economic activity status.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Remembrance Day

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to lay a wreath on behalf of the British Overseas Territories on the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day; and if he will take steps to ensure that all representatives of British Overseas Territories are able to do so. [296923]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The Government fully recognise the contribution and sacrifice made by citizens of the Overseas Territories during time of conflict. After careful consideration and consultation across relevant Whitehall Departments it has been decided that there should be no change to existing arrangements at the Remembrance Sunday Service.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will continue to lay a wreath on behalf of all the British Overseas Territories at the Cenotaph Service on Remembrance Sunday.

Colombia: Political Prisoners

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether members of his Department posted to Bogota have visited political prisoners in Colombia jails. [297732]

Chris Bryant: No, but we have pointed out to the Colombian authorities that those charged with crimes should have their legal rights fully respected, including to a fair trial.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Colombia on the detention since September 2007 of trade unionist Andres Gil. [297705]

Chris Bryant: The last time we made formal representations on the detention of Andres Gil was in July 2009. We have received no response to date and will make further representations accordingly.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294696]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost. Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Hakluyt

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contacts his Department has had with Hakluyt and Co Ltd since 1 January 2009. [296748]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and collating it would incur disproportionate cost.

Honduras: Politics and Government

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the restoration of democratic government in Honduras. [296811]

Chris Bryant: The UK strongly condemned the forcible removal of President Manuel Zelaya of Honduras. Since June 2009, the UK and our EU partners have continued to support a regional resolution and have welcomed in particular the role that President Arias of Costa Rica and the Organisation of American States have played in seeking to find a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the crisis.

The EU has issued a number of statements about the situation in Honduras (21, 25, 31 July, 7 August and 22 September 2009) which have publicly supported these processes. The EU has also applied a number of diplomatic measures, including restrictions on political level contacts with members of the de facto regime, and suspending budgetary support.

We hope that the signing by representatives of President Zelaya and the de facto Government of an accord on 30 October 2009 will lead to a return to democratic government and constitutional order in the country.

Kenya: Foreign Relations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the state of relations between the UK and the government of Kenya; and what recent discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts on the state of relations between Kenya and the EU. [297645]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have good relations with the Government of Kenya. Our two countries are bound together by strong historic links, reinforced by a Kenyan diaspora of an estimated 130,000 in the UK. We support the Kenyan Government's political reform process and stress the importance of credible action to strengthen governance. We are one of the largest bilateral aid donors to Kenya and also have strong trade, investment, tourism and military relationships. We share common interests in tackling regional and international security issues. Kenya's progress on political and socio-economic reform has an impact on the vitality of these relationships. That is why we are encouraging and supporting the National Accord which sets out a framework of action to address issues that threaten Kenya's stability and prosperity. These include constitutional, electoral, police and judicial reform, while tackling the entrenched culture of impunity related to corruption and violence.

We work closely with EU partners to coordinate support and engagement with the Kenyan Government and others active in the reform process. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the EU General Affairs Council Meeting in Brussels in late July 2009 where Council Conclusions on Kenya were agreed. The conclusions highlighted the need for faster implementation of reforms vital to the interests of the Kenyan people, while acknowledging the importance of Kenya's partnership with the EU in addressing issues of regional significance, such as piracy. With our EU partners and other like-minded countries we are continuing to support Kenya's political reform process.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Zeenat Begum. [296122]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 29 October 2009.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage dialogue between the authorities in Israel and Palestine. [296737]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: From my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister down, we work closely with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities, and our international partners, to promote efforts towards a comprehensive peace in the middle east. We are also working on the ground to improve the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to provide security and services for Palestinians and to support economic growth. Both through political engagement and practical assistance we are seeking to make progress towards a two-state solution.

Passports: Embassies

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 257W, on passports: embassies, how many emergency passports were issued through consular services in each *(a)* region of the world and *(b)* country in each of the last five financial years. [297868]

Chris Bryant: The number of emergency passports issued in each country over the last five financial years is provided in the following table:

Number of EPs issued

Country	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Afghanistan	11	6	10	8	14
Albania	4	8	2	3	5
Algeria	0	2	3	6	0
Angola	1	2	9	10	13
Antigua and Barbuda	14	3	7	10	0
Argentina	3	8	4	20	6
Armenia	0	0	2	1	3
Australia	189	67	68	46	81
Austria	6	4	13	24	23
Azerbaijan	1	0	6	1	2
Bahrain	0	0	0	0	1
Bangladesh	11	13	8	12	6
Barbados	23	8	5	12	3
Belarus	1	0	3	2	0
Belgium	61	52	71	129	150
Belize	1	0	0	0	2

	Number of EPs issued				
Country	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	16	11	7	4	0
Botswana	5	0	4	7	6
Brazil	9	21	26	20	23
Brunei	1	0	3	1	1
Bulgaria	93	108	76	87	27
Cambodia	14	5	0	3	1
Cameroon	6	8	2	5	0
Canada	149	110	114	110	116
Cayman Islands	0	0	0	2	0
Chile	1	1	5	8	48
China	44	53	37	42	46
Colombia	1	0	1	4	4
Congo (Democratic Republic)	3	0	0	0	1
Costa Rica	2	7	4	3	10
Croatia	36	34	31	24	5
Cuba	56	59	74	52	38
Cyprus	47	65	118	170	19
Czech Republic	345	64	102	34	2
Denmark	30	6	21	46	22
Dominican Republic	14	17	16	23	18
Ecuador	2	3	4	[illegible]	5
Egypt	19	29	38	32	14
Eritrea	0	0	3	2	0
Estonia	16	1	0	5	1
Ethiopia	7	6	24	26	4
Fiji	5	0	2	2	0
Finland	15	7	8	12	10
France	489	446	685	743	590
Georgia	1	0	2	3	4
Germany	304	214	308	257	273
Ghana	23	23	15	16	6
Greece	563	388	305	395	309
Grenada	11	2	6	0	0
Guatemala	26	0	6	7	0
Guyana	1	0	6	1	2
Hungary	83	57	50	21	12
Iceland	3	0	3	5	1
India	30	47	51	51	37
Indonesia	10	2	9	10	0
Iran	0	0	16	3	0
Iraq	28	17	22	0	23
Ireland	2	0	1	1	1
Israel	15	13	20	13	1
Italy	380	331	402	449	331
Jamaica	110	85	37	43	27
Japan	2	5	2	3	6
Jerusalem	9	9	11	12	9
Jordan	2	8	3	7	1
Kazakhstan	7	0	1	4	1
Kenya	17	21	13	22	16
Kuwait	3	0	1	0	0
Laos	17	0	0	0	0
Latvia	23	23	9	4	12
Lebanon	0	1	45	1	3
Libya	0	3	0	2	0
Lithuania	6	14	12	7	4
Luxembourg	9	16	12	7	9
Macedonia	2	1	8	2	2
Madagascar	10	0	0	0	0
Malawi	3	0	7	3	4
Malaysia	21	3	9	2	5
Mali	0	0	0	3	0
Malta	44	26	25	24	41
Mauritius	8	8	19	11	5
Mexico	31	31	43	22	13
Mexico	23	24	29	37	37
Moldova	6	3	0	0	2
Mongolia	0	1	0	0	0
Montenegro	0	0	0	0	8
Morocco	21	53	29	5	23
Mozambique	3	4	1	0	1
Namibia	5	0	0	3	1
Nepal	0	2	3	0	2
Netherlands	11	95	202	206	241
Nigeria	60	53	54	83	11
Norway	10	4	1	14	7
Oman	0	1	5	3	5
Pakistan	153	61	61	83	40
Panama	1	2	1	0	1
Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	1	0
Paraguay	1	0	0	0	0
Peru	8	9	30	3	2
Philippines	11	9	13	16	1
Poland	34	6	31	3	13
Portugal	518	372	495	582	643
Romania	32	8	4	14	0
Russia	32	19	5	8	13
Rwanda	0	4	2	3	2
Saudi Arabia	3	5	2	0	1
Senegal	2	8	2	7	1
Serbia	1	11	23	56	15
Seychelles	2	3	2	1	0
Sierra Leone	2	0	18	7	5
Singapore	17	17	30	34	24
Slovakia	21	46	41	19	26
Slovenia	11	5	12	18	16
Solomon Islands	0	0	1	0	1
South Africa	117	102	48	61	109
South Korea	1	2	2	1	7
Spain	4,596	4,468	5,423	6,188	5,700
Sri Lanka	12	8	24	9	22
St. Lucia	2	0	3	1	13
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	3	1	1	0	0
Sudan	3	4	12	0	1
Swaziland	4	0	0	0	0
Sweden	29	29	24	43	17
Switzerland	147	209	160	143	100
Syria	3	0	10	8	3
Tanzania	1	0	8	16	10
Thailand	318	260	341	202	105
The Bahamas	9	4	7	9	3
The Gambia	28	11	15	18	5
Trinidad and Tobago	26	9	22	19	3
Tunisia	34	14	16	4	4
Turkey	136	186	195	224	276
Turkmenistan	1	0	0	0	0
Uganda	0	1	16	4	9
Ukraine	2	4	11	10	12
United Arab Emirates	7	0	5	3	5
Uruguay	4	10	3	9	5

	Number of EPs issued				
Country	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
USA	1,430	462	482	586	751
Uzbekistan	3	2	0	0	0
Vanuatu	1	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	5	0	0	3	1
Vietnam	2	7	11	8	15
Yemen	7	0	0	7	2
Zambia	8	0	12	7	6
Zimbabwe	3	3	5	3	0
Global Total	11,485	9,212	11,138	11,956	10,806

South America

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates Ministers from his Department met representatives of the Government of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Argentina, *(c)* Venezuela, *(d)* Ecuador, *(e)* Chile, *(f)* Cuba, *(g)* Bolivia and *(h)* Paraguay in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [297919]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Ministers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regularly meet representatives of Governments of the above-mentioned Latin American countries during the duties of essential business.

Previous meetings include:

Brazil: Minister for Europe Chris Bryant in October 2009; Secretary of State David Miliband in September 2009; former Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown in February 2009; former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Gillian Merron in December 2008; former Minister of State, Kim Howells in March 2008 and May 2008.

Argentina: Minister for Europe Chris Bryant in September 2009; and former Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown in February 2009.

Venezuela: Minister for Europe Chris Bryant in September 2009, and in October 2009.

Ecuador: No FCO ministerial bilateral meetings with representatives of the Ecuadorian Government during 2008 and 2009.

Chile: Minister for Europe Chris Bryant in October 2009; the Foreign Secretary in November 2008; former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Gillian Merron in October 2008; former Minister of State, Kim Howells in March 2008 and April 2008.

Cuba: Minister for Europe Chris Bryant in October 2009; the Foreign Secretary in April 2009; former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Gillian Merron in November 2008; former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Meg Munn in April 2008 and June 2008.

Bolivia: former Minister of State Kim Howells in January 2008 and May 2008.

Paraguay: former Minister of State, Kim Howells in September 2008.

Additionally, the Foreign Secretary met with all Latin American Ambassadors to London in April 2009 for a round-table discussion.

Tanzania: Overseas Investment

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department provides to potential British investors in Tanzania; whether such investors are informed of the Silverdale Farm case; and if he will make a statement. [296730]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department, made up of staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, which helps UK companies to export and attracts foreign investment into the UK.

UKTI does not promote UK investment overseas, including to Tanzania; this is the responsibility of the Tanzanian government through the Tanzanian Investment Centre and the country's diplomatic missions. However, should they be asked to do so, UKTI staff in Dar es Salaam brief potential UK investors on the business environment in Tanzania and provide them with local business and government contacts. While these briefings do not provide specific details of previous UK investors in Tanzania, such as the Silverdale Farm case, they provide advice on issues such as local bureaucracy, regulations, licensing and taxation. They also recommend that potential investors considering going into business with a Tanzanian partner conduct thorough due diligence into their prospective local partner, and take specialist legal advice before entering into any form of partnership agreement. This information can also be found via the UKTI website:

www.ukti.gov.uk

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer *(a)* Question 294787 on Colombia: land mines and *(b)* Question 295023 on travel advice to British nationals, tabled on 22 October 2009. [297867]

Chris Bryant: These questions were answered on 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 935W and column 931W respectively.

I apologise for the delay in replying to these two questions.

WALES

Forensic Science Service: Chepstow

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings he has had to discuss the future of the Forensic Science Service Laboratory in Chepstow in the last eight months. [297568]

Mr. Hain: I have discussed this issue with both the Home Secretary and with the hon. Member for Newport East. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State also visited the Chepstow laboratory in September to discuss the transformation with staff there.

I can assure the hon. Member that the Government will work closely through Jobcentre Plus and others with those affected by the Forensic Science Service Transformation program to give them all the support they need at this unsettling time.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what bonuses have been paid to *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors working on the Olympic Park construction project. [289375]

Tessa Jowell: The information is as follows:

(a) In order for the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to achieve or exceed specific time and cost-based targets, incentive payments are made to its delivery partner CLM for the achievement of key performance indicators for the delivery of programme milestones and cost targets. The amounts payable to CLM in respect of performance are disclosed at note 19 to the ODA's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, a copy of which is available in the House Library:

	£ million
2007-08	16.133
2008-09	60.180

The ODA, working with CLM, achieved significant savings of £390 million. CLM's contract is heavily incentivised and payment to them is dependent on meeting strict performance measures tied to delivering on time, to budget and to a high standard.

(b) The ODA incentivises contractors on the Olympic Park to deliver on time and on budget. Incentive payments have therefore been included as part of the contracting process. Payments to date are as follows and are included in the figures published quarterly to Parliament. The project remains on-track and on-budget.

Company	*Project*	*Payable for*	*Amount (£ million)*
Sir Robert McAlpine	Stadium	Piling and roof trusses	1.048
Balfour Beatty	Aquatics Centre	Completion of design procurement and erection of steel trusses	1.000
ISG	Velopark	Completion of piling	0.593
Carillion	IBC/MPC	Completion of foundations	0.165
Morrison	Enabling Works	Delivery of works to timetable	9.144
Nuttall	Enabling works	Delivery of works to timetable	10.120
Atkins	Enabling Works	Percentage of the incentive payment to Morrison and Nuttall	2.189

PRIME MINISTER

Environment Protection: Work Experience

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what progress has been made in implementing proposals to increase green work placements, in association with the Eden Project and the Mayday Network; what public funds have been allocated to the proposals; and what his estimate is of the number of green work placements that will be created by this programme. [296998]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Department is currently drawing up plans to deliver green work placements. A full announcement on plans to implement the programme will be made shortly.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take to counter extremism in areas predominantly populated by white, working-class people; how such neighbourhoods will be identified; and what funding his Department plans to allocate to such activities. [294255]

Mr. Malik: The Government have announced £12 million this financial year to help neighbourhoods feeling the pressure from recession most acutely and address the legitimate fears which, if neglected, can prove fertile territory for extremism and those who would divide our communities. Neighbourhoods have been identified by examining a range of hard and soft data around cohesion, deprivation and crime, perceived unfairness in the allocation of resources and feedback from people working locally. Although there are modest additional resources available for support specific to the individual area, the focus will be on working through mainstream government programmes operating in the target areas. The aim is for local authorities to ensure people are aware of opportunities and services and have the opportunity to influence what happens in their local area. This is one element of wider work to understand and tackle perceptions of unfairness and disaffection, reduce tensions which threaten community cohesion, and build resilience in communities to resist negative messages from extremists and far-right groups.

Community Relations: Faith Schools

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has commissioned recent research on the relationship between the number of faith schools in an area and community cohesion. [297870]

Mr. Malik: The Department has commissioned no such research.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by his Department on consultancy services relating to the establishment of *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme; and which organisations provided services for each project. [297832]

John Healey: The Department spent £322,613 (excluding VAT) on consultancy services to support establishment of the Homes and Communities Agency. The consultants used were Stanton Marris LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Bridget Skelton Ltd., Turner and Townsend and Blake Lapthorn.

PricewaterhouseCoopers provided commercial expertise to support development of our interventions to prevent repossessions, in particular to inform negotiations with lenders on their forbearance policies and liaison with the money advice sector, and advise on the interface with the regulatory framework. The total cost was £1,143,883 (excluding VAT). Statistics from the Financial

Services Authority show that by June 2009, over 135,000 borrowers were benefiting from forbearance offered by their lender, an increase of 74 per cent. on the previous year.

Departmental Energy

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has a strategy to encourage voltage optimisation on the estate of local authorities. [295275]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government has no strategy for local authorities to encourage voltage optimisation in the estate of local authorities.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to his Department's advertisement for a job vacancy published in August 2009 for a policy adviser to the Secretary of State on Faith and Community, and pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 655W, on Tony Clements, how many staff in his Department who are not special advisers have the job title *(a)* policy and *(b)* departmental adviser. [292982]

Barbara Follett: All civil servants in the Department provide policy advice to Ministers as necessary and regardless of job title.

According to the Department's Staff Directory, 87 staff currently have policy adviser within their job title and no staff have departmental adviser within their job title.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on recruiting each member of the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency Board and *(b)* National Housing and Planning Advice Unit Board. [297830]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

Homes and Communities Agency

The board appointments recruitment processes for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Tenants Service Authority (TSA) were to some extent run in combination and it is not possible to break these costs down further between the two organisations or the individual members. The total amounts spent were:

> The Department hired a Human Resources expert on a consultancy basis to advise on and oversee the entire recruitment process for both the HCA and TSA chairs, board members and the TSA chief executive. The cost of this expert was £89,000. It is not possible to break down this cost further between the agencies or across the various individual appointments he was involved in.
>
> For the recruitment of the HCA chair, the cost of hiring a recruitment agency, including advertising costs, was £58,000. The cost of engaging an independent assessor was £876.
>
> Recruitment of board members for the HCA and the TSA was run as a joint exercise. The cost of the recruitment agency including advertising and expenses was £79,000. The cost cannot be broken down between HCA and TSA or between individual board members. The cost of engaging an independent assessor was £3,499 and again cannot be split between the HCA and TSA or between individual appointments.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

The total amount spent on recruitment of the Board of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit was £94,535, of which £91,300 was incurred on recruitment agency fees, and £3,235 on engaging an Independent Appointments Assessor. It is not possible to breakdown these costs further to identify amounts which specifically related to the recruitment of individuals, as the process was conducted as a total recruitment package for a Board of five Members and one Chairperson.

Departmental Staffing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 460-62W, on departmental staffing, what each project was on which expenditure was incurred as set out in Table B; and how much was spent on each such project. [297829]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him today, (PQs 297831 and 297832).

A further detailed breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the FiReControl project and its funding; and if he will make a statement. [296931]

Mr. Malik: The Department receives regular representations from fire and rescue authorities about the level of funding and support available for work carried out locally on the FiReControl project. Most recently, representations have been received from Dorset FRA, Cumbria FRA and the South West Regional Management Board.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the criteria are for participation in the fire and rescue service high potential development programme; and if he will make a statement. [297839]

Mr. Malik: There are no set criteria for participation by fire and rescue services in the pilot High Potential Leadership Programme. 13 fire and rescue services are participating in the pilot and are doing so on a voluntary basis.

Specific background experience, academic or vocational qualifications will not be required for eligibility to apply for the pilot programme either for existing operational and non-operational staff or for new entrants to the participating fire and rescue services.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is planned to be spent on the fire and rescue service in the next three years. [295737]

Mr. Malik: Spending on fire is a devolved matter. The amount spent on fire and rescue authorities in England is a decision taken by individual authorities. The Government do not hold this information centrally.

In most cases, fire and rescue services are delivered by single-purpose authorities (combined and metropolitan county fire and rescue authorities). Formula Grant of £796.9 million was allocated to be spent on fire and rescue by these authorities in the provisional local government finance settlement for 2010-11, which the Government published at the same time as the 2009-10 settlement. The final 2010-11 settlement will be published according to the usual timetable.

In addition, £119 million of specific grants are anticipated to be made to fire and rescue authorities in 2010-11.

Decisions about Government funding from 2011-12 will be taken as part of the next spending review.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding was provided to the fire and rescue service per resident in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Shropshire in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; [295995]

(2) how much funding *(a)* in total and *(b)* per resident was given to the fire and rescue service in (i) England, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) Shropshire in 2008; [296000]

(3) how much funding was given to the fire and rescue service in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Shropshire in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [296001]

Mr. Malik: It is not possible to provide figures for Government funding for the fire and rescue service in England as a whole, as it is provided principally through Formula Grant, an unhypothecated block grant. In some areas, fire and rescue is the responsibility of the county council, which receives Formula Grant in respect of its services as a whole. However, figures are available for the West Midlands and Shropshire, which are both single-purpose fire and rescue authorities.

The Formula Grant distribution system takes into account the relative needs of each local authority and the relative potential income that can be provided through council tax for each local authority, relative to all other authorities providing the same services. There is also a central allocation and the floor damping mechanism.

The following includes funding from Formula Grant and specific grants:

Funding per head of population

			£
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
West Midlands	32.94	34.73	38.30
Shropshire	16.13	16.72	21.11

Total funding

			£ million
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
West Midlands	85.2	89.9	99.6
Shropshire	7.3	7.6	9.5

Homes and Communities Agency: Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what projects the Homes and Communities Agency Academy has employed external consultants. [297831]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Academy has employed external consultants for the following projects:

New products and programmes
Brownfield Skills
Accelerating roll out of current programmes
National and Regional Delivery Structure
Skills Action Plan
Leadership of Place
Leaders' Network
Endorsement Framework
Benchmark and Tool Kit
Practical knowledge to support delivery
F[illegible] Events
Prog[illegible]e Staff Costs.

Housing: Prices

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the average selling price of *(a)* a four-bedroom detached house, *(b)* a three-bedroom detached house, *(c)* a three- bedroom semi-detached house, *(d)* a two-bedroom terraced house and *(e)* a one-bedroom flat in Yate, South Gloucestershire in (i) April 1991 and (ii) the latest month for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [295018]

Mr. Ian Austin: Average house prices by property type and location are available from HM Land Registry. HM Land Registry data is not available for 1991 or by town or by bedroom.

Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recommendations the west midlands regional spatial strategy planning inspectors panel made on reviewing the green belt. [292583]

Mr. Malik: The independent panel report identifies a number of districts where green belt adjustments may be required. The references to green belt are numerous and propose detailed changes to the wording of the submitted draft RSS; most of the references can be found in Chapter 8 of the report. The Secretary of State is considering the recommendations in preparing his proposed changes to the RSS.

Tenants Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department is undertaking into the security of tenure of residents of privately-rented accommodation; and whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend security of tenure provisions in relation to such residents. [297227]

Mr. Ian Austin: The English Housing Survey (which is a unified successor to the English Housing Condition Survey and the Survey of English Housing) contains questions directed at private tenants about their length of tenure and reasons for ending a tenancy. Further questions will be directed to landlords as part of the related Landlords Survey. Drawing on this research Julie Rugg's independent review of the private rented sector found that, in spite of the standard assured shorthold tenancy only having a minimum fixed period of six months, the majority of tenancies last considerably longer. The review found that 55 per cent. of tenants had been at their current address for over one year and over 21 per cent. for over five years and that only 6 per cent. of tenancies are ended early by landlords mostly because of non-payment of rent. So this research and the status of the sector as a flexible form of tenure for both tenants and landlords, would suggest there does not appear to be the need to change the legislation governing the security of tenure in the private rented sector.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many helplines his Department operates; how much it has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years; if he will consider the merits of securing the accreditation of such helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [298396]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not operate any helplines.

Rwanda: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria are used to determine the level of direct humanitarian aid distributed to individual states; and to what extent Rwanda meets those criteria. [296890]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's (DFID) support for humanitarian action is based on an assessment of need, without regard to political or other considerations and is targeted where the threat to life is most severe, where the extent and depth of suffering is greatest and the response capacities of host communities and authorities are most limited.

In recent years Rwanda has not met these criteria to an extent that would necessitate humanitarian aid. DFID supports Rwanda through a £50 million (2009-10) aid programme which is focused on improving education, health, governance and economic growth.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

International Co-operation

9. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress towards agreement has been made in international negotiations on climate change. [297756]

Joan Ruddock: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) earlier today.

21. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to secure an international agreement on climate change; and if he will make a statement. [297771]

Joan Ruddock: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) earlier today.

Gas Storage

16. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of levels of gas storage in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [297766]

Mr. Kidney: National Grid's published figures show that, this week, our storage capacity was around 99 per cent. full.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

17. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in reducing the UK's carbon dioxide emissions over the last five years. [297767]

Joan Ruddock: The UK's carbon dioxide emissions were reduced by 2.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$), or 0.4 per cent., between 2002 and 2007, the latest year for which we have final figures. On the basis of the provisional figure for 2008, UK CO_2 emissions were reduced by 24.4 $MtCO_2$, or 4.4 per cent., between 2003 and 2008.

Electricity Generation

18. **Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the contribution of onshore wind to the UK's electricity generation capacity; and if he will make a statement. [297768]

Mr. Kidney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly receives representations from stakeholders and members of the public regarding the contribution of onshore wind to the UK's electricity generation capacity.

In 2008, the installed capacity of onshore wind in the UK was 2,820 MWe, the most of any renewable energy technology and enough to power 1.4 million homes. This represents more than a doubling since 2005.

Nuclear Power

19. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the Government's policy on future use of nuclear power; and if he will make a statement. [297769]

Mr. Kidney: Ministers and officials regularly engage with a wide range of stakeholders including industry, environmental groups and the unions. Nuclear has an important role to play in the energy mix and the Government are committed to working with industry to enable new nuclear power stations to be built. The Office for Nuclear Development (OND) aims to enable investment in the UK from the earliest possible date and with no cap on the amount of new build. It aims to build and maintain the UK as the best market in the world for companies to invest in nuclear.

Global Temperature

20. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the Met Office Hadley Centre and the university of East Anglia Climate Research Unit the publication of near-surface temperature data used to calculate changes to average global temperature. [297770]

Joan Ruddock: The Met Office Hadley Centre and Climate Research Unit deliver near-surface temperature series going back to the mid-19th century. These temperature series are almost identical to two other similar data series generated by climate centres in the U.S. and all are robust in representing global and regional temperature changes over this period.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme relating to his Department; and what training is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in respect of the delivery of value for money savings. [296059]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has a target to find £20 million of savings in 2010-11 as part of the £5 billion Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP). £17.5 million of this will be found from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's non-programme budgets and £2.5 million from core-DECC budgets. These targets will be met through a combination of innovation and strict control of expenditure. DECC has also contributed to the OEP work on the benchmarking of back office costs.

My noble Friend the Minister of State has been appointed as DECC's Value for Money (VfM) Minister and as such participated in a Treasury-led seminar in the summer. DECC officials are members of the cross-government VfM Group. Additionally, a wide range of learning and development opportunities are available for officials, many of which are focused on driving VfM.

Energy Supply

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the likely level of consumption of *(a)* gas, *(b)* oil and *(c)* coal by the UK energy supply industry in each year from 2009 to 2020. [297152]

Mr. Kidney: The following tables show the central scenario produced by modelling carried out for the July 2009 Low Carbon Transition Plan. It should be stressed that this is one of many possible scenarios based upon a number of assumptions. There are necessarily significant uncertainties around this scenario, and a range of sensitivities could be considered. Ultimately the level of fuel demand will be determined by the market.

Projected fossil fuel uses in electricity generation

Million tonnes of oil equivalent

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*
Coal	29.4	26.9	26.9	25.6	25.6	22.7	24.6	23.1	21.0	22.7	20.3	19.1
Oil	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Gas	29.3	27.5	28.4	29.1	28.2	28.9	25.8	24.5	25.6	21.5	21.3	18.3

Projected total fossil fuel use

Million tonnes of oil equivalent

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*
Solids	35.7	33.1	33.0	31.7	31.8	28.8	30.6	29.0	26.9	28.5	26.1	24.7
Oil	80.1	80.6	81.1	81.5	81.5	81.1	80.7	80.3	79.9	79.5	79.0	78.6
Gas	89.1	85.7	85.3	85.0	83.3	83.1	79.0	76.9	76.9	71.9	70.6	66.1

The category "solids" consists of mainly coal, but includes a small amount of solid manufactured fuel.

Modelling results from the DECC Energy Model may differ slightly from the results of other DECC analysis. See for example, the analysis for the Renewable Energy Strategy which shows an illustrative mix of renewable technologies for meeting the 2020 RES target:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

The DECC energy projections published alongside the Low Carbon Transition Plan can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/projections/projections.aspx

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the UK's energy supply likely to be generated by *(a)* coal, *(b)* oil, *(c)* gas, *(d)* wind power, *(e)* solar power and *(f)* nuclear energy in each year from 2009 to 2020. [297154]

Mr. Kidney: The following tables show the results of the central scenario modelled for the July 2009 Low Carbon Transition Plan. It should be stressed that this is just one possible scenario based on a number of assumptions. There are necessarily significant uncertainties around this scenario, and a range of sensitivities could be considered.

Ultimately, the future generation mix will be determined by the market.

Projected shares of electricity supply

												Percentage
	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*
Coal	32	30	30	29	29	25	28	26	24	26	23	22
Oil	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Gas	41	39	41	41	40	42	38	37	39	33	33	29
Wind	2	3	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Solar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuclear	16	19	16	16	16	15	12	11	8	8	7	8

Notes:

1. The percentages shown in the table are those fuels specifically referred to in the question and the shares of other sources of supply make up the balance of 100 per cent.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest per cent.

Projected shares of primary energy demand

												Percentage
	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*
Coal	16	15	15	14	14	13	14	14	13	14	13	12
Oil	35	36	37	37	37	37	37	38	38	38	38	38
Gas	39	38	38	38	38	38	37	36	36	34	34	32
Wind	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3
Solar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuclear	6	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	3	3	3	4

Notes:

1. Primary energy demand is measured in terms of fuel inputs and is equal to the sum of final consumption, energy industry demand, transformation demand and energy losses.

2. The percentages shown in the table are those fuels specifically referred to in the question and the shares of other sources of supply make up the balance of 100 per cent.

3. Figures are rounded to the nearest per cent.

Modelling results from the DECC Energy Model may differ slightly from the results of other DECC analysis. See for example, the analysis for the Renewable Energy Strategy which shows an illustrative mix of renewable technologies for meeting the 2020 RES—Renewable Energy Strategy—target:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

The DECC energy projections can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/projections/projections.aspx

Fossil Fuels

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of levies to be placed on fossil fuels in order to fund the proposed renewable heat incentive; and, what assessment has been made of the distributional effect on household incomes of such levies. [296638]

Mr. Kidney: As part of the Renewable Energy Strategy, published in July this year, we provided an estimate of the potential impact of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) levy on consumers.

The RHI subsidy costs are expected to be passed on to consumers of fossil fuels used for heat through price increases on them.

Initial work to estimate the impact of the policy, assuming all costs fall on gas prices, is summarised as follows. These numbers are based on the costs figures presented in the impact assessment which accompanied the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES). The impact assessment set out ranges which reflect different possibilities for providing support for technologies and sectors under the RHI. The upper end of these ranges is used as the central estimate in the overall RES impact assessment.

Based on these assumptions, under our lead scenario in the RES (that in 2020 12 per cent. of heat comes from renewable sources), bill increases in the domestic sector in 2020 are expected to be in the order of 16 to 23 per cent. corresponding to an average domestic bill increase of around £120 to £172.

However, the eventual cost of the RHI and its actual impact on bills will depend on a series of policy decisions which are still to be taken and external variable factors. For example, whether the support will be paid over a short or long period, how we differentiate support across the different technologies, changes in fossil fuel prices, and likely rates of return. The forthcoming consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive, will be the next step in this process, and be accompanied by a further Regulatory Impact Assessment.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on measures to reduce fuel poverty among park home residents since 1997. [297497]

Mr. Kidney: It is difficult to reduce the carbon emissions and heating bills of park homes due to the lack of scope for key energy efficiency measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation. Where scope does exist, such as through draught-proofing and high efficiency lights and appliances, assistance is available to park homes residents through schemes such as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and Warm Front.

Warm Front is currently working in partnership with a gas distributor and a local residents association to enable 61 residents of Elm Tree caravan park in Hartlepool to be connected to the mains gas network. This project meant these homes, previously utilising liquid petroleum gas, coal or forms of electric heating, reduced their likely energy bills and likely carbon consumption. The project considerably reduced the otherwise prohibitive cost that had prevented each park home individually connecting to the gas network.

Warm front will be undertaking a piloting exercise of insulation technologies for park homes. Technologies will be assessed against a variety of criteria, including cost of installation, energy savings and customer satisfaction. Details of the pilot, including the specific technology types and target areas, are currently being finalised.

The fuel poverty charity, National Energy Action, has developed expertise in addressing the problems of treating park homes. Any treatment will, however, require a coordinated response involving the park home residents' association and the site operator.

Free expert advice on practical ways to save energy in the home is also available through the Act on CO_2 advice line.

Green Hydrogen

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the use of green hydrogen as an alternative to natural gas. [297460]

Mr. Kidney: Hydrogen, unlike natural gas, is not a primary energy source. Like electricity, it is an energy carrier, which requires the use of a primary energy source for its production. Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced using low or zero carbon sources. The Department of Trade and Industry commissioned a study which reported in December 2004—A strategic framework for hydrogen energy in the UK. This examined the circumstances under which it would make sense for the UK to deploy hydrogen, including green hydrogen. It concluded that the main potential application would be as a transport fuel for use in fuel cell powered vehicles. While hydrogen might have some niche applications as a heating fuel—for example, in remote islands with no available alternative fuel and with substantial renewable energy resources—the study concluded that, in general, the energy loss associated with the production of hydrogen would not be justified where the direct conversion of primary sources to heat was feasible. The Government broadly accept that conclusion.

Natural Gas: Storage

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of levels of gas storage in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [297761]

Mr. Kidney: National Grid's published figures show that, this week, our storage capacity was around 99 per cent. full.

Wind Power

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind farms there are in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Tees Valley district. [296339]

Mr. Kidney: The relevant data are set out in the following table:

	Number of schemes	*MW*
UK	263	3,341.7
England	117	773.3
North East	19	143.2
Tees Valley District	1	2.3

Source:
AEA Technology

Wind Power: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on wind farm planning applications in areas of outstanding natural beauty; and if he will make a statement. [297757]

Mr. Kidney: I have received a recent representation regarding a planning application for a wind farm within an area of outstanding natural beauty. I am unable to comment further on this matter as the application remains subject to the statutory planning process.

The Government's Planning Policy Statement 22 on renewable energy is clear that planning permission for renewable energy projects should be granted only where it can be demonstrated that the objectives of the designation of the area will not be compromised by the development, and that any significant adverse effects are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers are planned to be deployed in each basic command unit in the Staffordshire police force area in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012; [297488]

(2) how many police officers were deployed in each basic command unit of the Staffordshire police force area in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2009 on the latest date for which figures are available. [297489]

Mr. Hanson: Information on planned deployment is not collected centrally. Decisions about the number of officers, PCSOs—police community support officers—and police staff in each basic command unit and other specialist units is an operational matter for the chief constable.

The available data for the number of police officers deployed are provided in the following table. This information has been collected since April 2002.

Police officer strength in Staffordshire police force area by basic command unit, as at 31 March[1, 2, 3]

Police force	*BCU*	*2009*	*2005*	*2001*	*1997*
Staffordshire	Chase	410	416	n/a	n/a
	North Staffordshire	292	299	n/a	n/a
	Stoke on Trent	547	585	n/a	n/a
	Trent Valley	405	429	n/a	n/a

Police officer strength in Staffordshire police force area by basic command unit, as at 31 March[1, 2, 3]

Police force	*BCU*	*2009*	*2005*	*2001*	*1997*
	Central Services	557	580	n/a	n/a
Total		2,211	2,309	2,129	2,211

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items.

[2] Data on police strength by police basic command unit were collected centrally for the first time for the period beginning April 2002. Therefore no breakdowns by BCU are available prior to that.

[3] Figures prior to 2003 are not directly comparable with figures from 2003 onwards, since figures prior to 2003 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave, whereas figures from 2003 onwards include them.

Burglary: Crime Prevention

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent from the public purse on measures to reduce numbers of burglaries in each of the last 10 years; and what plans he has for such spending in each of the next three years. [297340]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* Burglary reduction is core police business, and as such it is not possible to disaggregate what proportion of the significant investment in the police service over the past decade has been spent on this. The police and partners have experienced significant success over the past decade in bringing overall crime, including burglary, down. According to the British Crime Survey, domestic burglary has fallen by 54 per cent. since 1997.

We have provided additional support to the frontline through specific crime reduction initiatives, such as £250 million in the Crime Reduction Programme between 1999 and 2002, of which £25 million was through the Reducing Burglary Initiative. Most recently we have launched Operation Vigilance and the Safer Homes Action Against Burglary programme, which are part of a £20 million package targeting acquisitive crime such as burglary.

In addition, we are taking actions to manage offenders, including the Prolific and Priority Offender scheme, the Drug Intervention Programme and the adoption nationally of the Integrated Offender Management approach by next spring, are helping to bring down a range of crimes, including burglary.

Spending plans for the next three years are not yet finalised.

Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly via grants to (i) local authorities and (ii) other organisations for the provision of closed circuit television cameras in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the likely level of such funding in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [297146]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Between 1999 and 2003, £170 million of capital funding was made available to local authorities under the Home Office Crime Reduction programme. This resulted in 680 schemes being installed in town centres and other public places. Central funding has been spent on CCTV since 2003 through various programmes such as Communities Against Drugs, the Safer Communities Initiative and the Building Safer Communities Initiative. Central data are not held on how much has been spent or will be spent in future years on CCTV-related activity through area-based grant. ABG funding is non-ringfenced and local authorities can spend it as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their area.

Crime Prevention

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made by local crime partnerships in *(a)* Denbighshire and *(b)* England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [297338]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) Denbighshire achieved a 22 per cent. reduction in the recorded crime British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08.

The latest published crime statistics for 2008-09 show a two per cent. increase in recorded crime BCS comparator (since 2007-08), and the Home Office Crime Team in Wales is working closely to support the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which is very focused on tackling this increase in crime.

(b) Local partners in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and CSPs in Wales continue to make a significant contribution to our overall progress in reducing crime.

Since 1997, crime has fallen: all crime as measured by the BCS is down 36 per cent.; domestic burglary is down 54 per cent.; all vehicle-related thefts down 57 per cent.; all household offences down 36 per cent.; all BCS violence down 41 per cent.; and all personal offences down 36 per cent.

The latest published crime statistics for 2008-09 show a seven per cent. decrease overall in recorded crime BCS comparator in England and Wales (since 2007-08).

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of false burglar alarm call-outs to each police force in each of the last three years. [297339]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Crime: Children in Care

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences committed by children in care have been recorded in each of the last five years. [297238]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. From the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office it is not possible to identify either the age of the alleged offender or their individual circumstances.

Crimes of Violence: Care Homes

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents where residents of *(a)* children's care homes and *(b)* older people's care homes were victims of violent crime have been reported in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [296431]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not collected centrally.

Drugs: Arrests

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug-related arrests there have been in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each year since 1997. [296367]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories including drug offences.

Information on arrests for drug offences covering the years 2002-03 (previous years data not available) to 2007-08 (latest available) is provided in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify the number of 'drug related' arrests for other offence groups (such as violence against the person or sexual offences) from the information on arrests reported to the Home Office.

Arrests in Teesside and Middlesbrough south cannot be separately identified as the data reported to the Home Office are broken down by police force area level only.

Information for Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Executive and information for Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

Persons arrested for drug offences in selected areas, 2002-03 to 2007-08

Area	*2002-03*[2]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*[3]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England	109,550	102,462	76,050	82,009	81,327	90,271
North East Region[1]	7,032	6,243	5,366	7,087	6,036	5,708
Cleveland police force area	1,970	1,810	—	1,670	1,150	1,251

[1] The North East Region includes three police force areas: Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria.
[2] Data for 2002-03 excludes Durham as they were unable to supply arrests data for that year.
[3] Data for 2004-05 excludes Cleveland as they were unable to supply arrests data broken down by offence group for that year.

Entry Clearances: Religious Persons

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what vetting procedures his Department applies in respect of imams from abroad who are seeking employment in the UK. [295823]

Alan Johnson: Imams, like all Ministers of religion from other faiths, from outside the EEA who wish to preach in the UK must apply under our new points-based system. They can only do so if they have a job offer from an organisation that has been licensed by the UK Border Agency to act as a sponsor.

The Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) category requires migrants to have a high standard of English language skills. This ensures that they are able to speak to and for the religious communities that they will represent, and in particular that they are able to communicate effectively with the younger generation. The level of English required is equivalent to level B2 on the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference.

In addition, imams, as with all migrants applying for leave to enter or remain in the UK, are subject to checks against their immigration history, criminal records, and any other factors that may mean their exclusion from the UK would be conducive to the public good.

Fireworks

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the effectiveness of legislation on *(a)* the misuse of fireworks and *(b)* the sale of fireworks over the internet in respect of public safety. [297588]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The legislation on the misuse of fireworks has been reviewed as part of implementation of the Pyrotechnics Directive due to be implemented early in 2010. Fireworks ordered over the internet are governed by the same legislation as shop sales. UK companies either deliver to a pick-up point, or to the buyer by special carrier; they are not allowed to deliver through the Royal Mail.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Forensic Science Service spent on *(a)* travel and *(b)* expenses for its Chief Executive in each of the last five years. [296012]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: The information is as follows:

		£
Year ended 31 March	*Travel*	*Other*
2005	6,744	4,014
2006	16,880	3,291
2007	6,961	3,180
2008	6,796	4,376
2009	11,583	5,841

Since August 2007, the role of CEO has been the responsibility of the executive chairman. From this date to October 2009, the figures outlined above relate to the duties carried out to support the CEO role.

Forensic Science: Digital Technology

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the time taken by forensic teams to process *(a)* computer data and *(b)* other digital evidence; what assessment he has made of the potential effectiveness of models for forensic triage in relation to digital evidence; and if he will make a statement. [296461]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No information is collected centrally on the time taken by police forces or forensic service providers to process forensic evidence contained on computers and other digital media.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) e-crime strategy published in May 2009 includes work on the development of forensic triage, which is being taken forward by ACPO.

Gun Sports: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 183W, on gun sports: Olympic Games 2012, how many permits under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 have been issued in the UK to those wishing to represent their country at the London 2012 Olympics. [297222]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: Section 5 authorities have been issued to 13 potential competitors as identified by British Shooting.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1441W, on Olympic Games: gunsports, whether there are plans to allow pistol training to take place at Bisley before the London 2012 Olympic Games. [297372]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: The Home Office will be responding shortly to a request from British Shooting for section 5 authorities to be amended to allow holders to train with their pistols at Bisley prior to the London 2012 Olympics.

Identity Cards: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions an identity card has been withdrawn because the application was *(a)* suspected of having been and *(b)* found to have been fraudulently made. [294285]

Alan Johnson: Identity cards are issued to foreign nationals after a decision has been made to grant them a period of leave to remain in the UK. No cards have been withdrawn after issue.

Immigration Controls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sponsor licence applications have been processed without payment of the relevant fee in each of the last 36 months. [294391]

Alan Johnson: No sponsor licence applications have been processed without payment of the appropriate fee since the launch of the points-based system in November 2008.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent members of staff at the UK Border Agency have been assigned to process sponsor applications under each tier of the points-based immigration system in each of the last 24 months. [294394]

Alan Johnson: The number of full-time equivalent members of staff engaged on processing sponsor applications in each of the months that the points-based system has been in operation are as follows. Separate figures for each tier are not available. Staff are deployed across the tiers as demand dictates.

Month and year	*Number of full-time staff*
March 2008	45
April 2008	45
May 2008	45
June 2008	46
July 2008	46
August 2008	49
September 2008	48
October 2008	48
November 2008	48
December 2008	84
January 2009	69
February 2009	62
March 2009	74
April 2009	60
May 2009	60
June 2009	62
July 2009	63
August 2009	63
September 2009	62

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for sponsor licences have been received in each of the last 36 months. [294395]

Alan Johnson: The following table show the number of sponsor licence applications received each month since the start of the scheme.

Number of sponsor license applications received each month since the start of the scheme

	Number
2008	
March	10
April	60
May	45
June	100
July	140
August	365
September	1,270
October	3,260
November	995
December	1,530
2009	
January	1,680
February	1,815
March	1,695
April	1,315
May	1,155
June	1,440
July	1,295
August	930
September	1,065
Up to 19 October	545

Note:

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sponsors under the points-based immigration system have had their licences suspended in each of the last 36 months. [294400]

Alan Johnson: The UKBA started issuing sponsor licences in May 2008. Since then a total of 37 licences have been suspended. We do not collect the data by month.

The figure quoted is not provided under National Statistics protocols and has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visits UK Border Agency staff made to sponsors in each of the last 36 months. [294401]

Alan Johnson: Visits to sponsors began in January 2008. The available information for the period January 2008 to September 2009 is as follows:

Visits to sponsors January 2008 to September 2009

	Number of visits undertaken
2008	
January	5
February	2
March	22
April	94
May	133
June	119
July	130
August	165
September	276
October	309
November	237
December	269
2009	
January	347
February	341
March	533
April	387
May	301
June	204
July	275
August	363
September	313

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have been involved in an organisation which had its sponsor licence revoked have subsequently been found to have committed an offence under immigration legislation. [294402]

Alan Johnson: This information is not centrally recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students whose sponsor had had its licence *(a)* revoked and *(b)* suspended were studying in the UK on the latest date for which figures are available. [294403]

Alan Johnson: There were 280 students studying in the UK, whose sponsor under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system has had their licence revoked or suspended, up to and including 16 October 2009.

Notes:

Figure is rounded to nearest five.

The figure quoted is not provided under National Statistics protocols and has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security checks are carried out in relation to each type of user of the sponsorship management system. [294404]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency carries out checks on users of the sponsor management system but details of any security checks undertaken is not made available for reasons of security.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many users of each type of the UK Border Agency sponsorship management system have had their access to that system revoked in each of the last 36 months; and for what reason that access was revoked in each case. [294405]

Alan Johnson: Users of the sponsor management system have their access denied when their licence is revoked. The number of sponsors whose licence was revoked and the reasons for revocation are as follows:

2009

	Number
July	
Failure to meet sponsor obligations	4
Sponsor not accredited	3
Sponsor ceased trading	1
Total	8
August	
Failure to meet sponsor obligations	3
Authorising officer not an employee	1
Sponsor in liquidation	1
Total	5
September	
Sponsor in administration	2
Sponsor in liquidation	1
Failure to meet sponsor obligations	1
Total 4	4
October	
Sponsor not accredited	2
Sponsor in liquidation	1
Total	3

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have applied to be *(a)* an authorising officer, *(b)* a key contractor and *(c)* a level 1 user of the UK Border Agency Sponsorship Management System had their applications refused; and for what reasons such applications were refused. [294406]

Alan Johnson: When a prospective sponsor applies for a licence they must name those individuals who will act as the authorising officer, level 1 users and key contact. Checks are made on whether the named individuals are eligible to carry out the responsibilities of these roles. If an application is refused, it is the application for a sponsor licence that is refused.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the UK Border Agency sponsorship management system has been temporarily unavailable since it became operational. [294407]

Alan Johnson: There have been three occasions when the sponsor management system was temporarily unavailable for unscheduled periods since the system became operational.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security checks are made available in relation to those people who are employed to manage *(a)* data input and *(b)* the computer programme for the UK Border Agency sponsorship management system. [294408]

Alan Johnson: UK Border Agency staff and external contractors are subject to a number of security checks but details of any security checks undertaken is not made available for reasons of security.

Immigration Controls: Ministers of Religion

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences have been granted to prospective sponsors of ministers of religion under Tier 2 of the points-based immigration system in each of the last 24 months. [294393]

Alan Johnson: Sponsor licences for this category were first issued in September 2008. Information for the period September 2008 to September 2009 is as follows:

Sponsor licence applications granted under tier 2 minister of religion category

	Number
September 2008	5
October 2008	5
November 2008	40
December 2008	70
January 2009	40
February 2009	25
March 2009	55
April 2009	30
May 2009	40
June 2009	50
July 2009	65
August 2009	45
September 2009	65

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Immigration: Unpaid Fines

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* public bodies and *(b)* other organisations to which the UK Border Agency has issued notices of liability had not paid the associated fines on the latest date for which figures are available. [294387]

Alan Johnson: The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 has, since it came into force on 29 February 2008, allowed the UK Border Agency to issue civil penalties of up to £10,000 per worker to employers who are found to be liable for employing illegal migrant workers.

Internal management information shows that for the period 29 February 2008 to 19 October 2009, no civil penalties have been issued to public bodies. 3,164 penalties have been issued to employers and 1,301 have yet to be paid.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the expected running costs are of *(a)* the Independent Safeguarding Authority and *(b)* the Vetting and Barring Scheme in each of the next five years. [294217]

Alan Johnson: The Vetting and Barring Scheme was established to vet all individuals who want to work or volunteer with vulnerable people. The scheme is delivered by the partnership of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The Home Office leads implementation of the Scheme.

The expected running costs of *(a)* the ISA and *(b)* the total costs of the VBS in the years 2010-15, based on the most recent reports to the VBS, are set out in the following table.

£ million

	ISA budget allocation	*VBS budget allocation (inclusive of ISA budget)*
2010-11	13.1	42.8
2011-12	13.3	40.7
2012-13	13.6	43.9
2013-14	13.8	45.3
2014-15	14.3	47.1

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. T. Khan. [297632]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 3 November 2009.

Passports: Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether there is an annual limit on the number of UK passports which can be issued by Gibraltar's Government; [296945]

(2) how many UK passports have been issued by the Gibraltar Government in each of the last three years. [296946]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

The issuing of passports is a matter for the Government of Gibraltar and so we recommend my hon. Friend contacts them directly.

Passports: Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for *(a)* new passports and *(b)* renewal of passports were submitted to the passport office in Belfast in each year since 2005. [297647]

Meg Hillier: The following figures are passport application intake for Belfast in each calendar year from 2005 to 2008 for the Identity and Passport Service.

	New	*Renewal*
2005	78,790	181,686
2006	79,035	204,669
2007	61,512	161,236
2008	52,668	159,496
Total	272,005	707,087

Police: Libya

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers from each force provided training in Libya in each of the last five years; and what training roles such officers undertook. [297391]

Mr. Hanson: Assistance was provided in the period between 1 November 2004 and 31 October 2009, as outlined:

2004: three police officers and one member of police staff from West Yorkshire police delivered a three-week programme on drugs investigation. This was part of a project coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

2008: one police officer from South Wales police delivered a two-week Major Incident Command Programme organised by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA);

2008: two police staff members of the NPIA delivered a two-week forensic awareness training programme;

2009: two police officers (one seconded to the NPIA) from the Police Service of Northern Ireland delivered a three-week Silver Command and Control Programme.

Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent from the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund in each category of expenditure in each year since its inception. [295760]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The Community Leadership Fund was launched in 2007 and the following table shows how much has been spent in each category since then:

Community Leadership Fund

£

Strand	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Capacity building	422,303.00	802,641.00	636,141.00
Supporting young people	n/a	640,943.00	392,000.00
Supporting women	40,000.00	164,862.50	274,124.16
Local forums	n/a	17,800.00	18,925.00
Supporting faith leaders	n/a	163,430.00	285,750.00
Leadership capacity	418,247.00	n/a	n/a
Total	880,550.00	1,789,676.50	1,664,940.16

[1] Allocations for 2009-10, of which the following funding has been released so far: Capacity building—£438,835.00 Supporting young people—£151,000.00 Supporting women—£174,427.00 Local forums—£18,925.00 Supporting faith leaders—£96,050.00 Total—£879,237.00

Prostitution: Olympic Games 2012

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the effect on demand for the sex industry in London arising from the number of tourists expected to attend the London 2012 Olympics. [293862]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* No such estimate has been made at this time. However, we remain vigilant and have measures in place to deal with any potential increase in the demand for prostitution as a result of the Olympics. We are assessing intelligence on a quarterly basis through the Olympics Organised Crime Threat Assessment, which includes prostitution.

Radicalism: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* identified and *(b)* prosecuted for spreading extremism on the web in the last 12 months. [292786]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We do not hold statistics in relation to the spread of violent extremism on the internet—data collected on terrorism prosecutions do not differentiate between online and off-line actions and we are unable accurately to separate all web based terrorism prosecutions from other terrorism prosecutions, in which the internet may have played a part.

UK Border Agency: Contracts

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* UK Border Agency IT systems and *(b)* services outsourced by the UK Border Agency are (i) provided and (ii) supported by companies employing fewer than five people. [294412]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency currently does not directly contract with any companies employing fewer than five people for outsourced services or IT systems.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are used by the UK Border Agency to review for benchmarking purposes the costs of *(a)* IT (i) systems and (ii) services, *(b)* finance and payroll services and *(c)* building management services; and if he will place in the Library copies of the reports of such reviews. [294413]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency, with the rest of the Home Office, is currently participating in a Government wide exercise to benchmark corporate services under the Operational Efficiency Programme. The Government will publish this information in due course.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what shared services arrangements the UK Border Agency has; and if he will make a statement. [294415]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency participates in Home Office shared services for IT, estates, payroll, and for transactional finance, procurement and HR activities.

In addition, the UK Border Agency also receives services, including IT and estates, from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for Agency staff located overseas. Following the transfer of HMRC staff to the Border Agency, shared services for IT, estates, payroll and HR transactional activities continue to be provided to those staff on a transitional basis.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which items the UK Border Agency has acquired from a purchasing catalogue for procurement in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [294420]

Alan Johnson: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost. As such this information has not been provided.

High level categories for items purchased via catalogue are:

Office Supplies

Professional and Administrative Services

Personal Protective Items/Equipment

Professional Services (Building)

UK Border Agency: Information and Communications Technology

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* outturn of the UK Border Agency was in respect of IT in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [294416]

Alan Johnson: I am unable to provide the figures for the calendar years 2008 and 2009 as the accounts operate on a fiscal financial year basis.

Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of *(a)* standard checks and *(b)* enhanced checks undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau were the subject of a dispute by (i) the applicant and (ii) an employer in each year since 1997. [290332]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The table details the number checks undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) which were the subject of a dispute since the launch of the disclosure service in 2002.

Information is not held to enable a breakdown of the number or percentage of disputes that relate to either the applicant or the employer.

	Disclosure type		
	Total number of disputes	*Total number of disclosures issued*	*Percentage of disputes*
2002-03	1,111	1,437,094	0.077
2003-04	1,887	2,284,688	0.082
2004-05	2,291	2,430,937	0.094
2005-06	2,379	2,770,265	0.085
2006-07	2,112	3,277,957	0.064
2007-08	2,288	3,323,251	0.068
2008-09	2,509	3,855,881	0.065
2009-10	743	1,747,710	0.042

The contents of a disclosure can be disputed for a number of reasons, such as:

The record relates to someone with the same details as the applicant and based on the information available the CRB was unable to dissociate the applicant from the record.

Where locally held information is released the applicant feels it is either inaccurate, misleading or is otherwise inaccurate in the opinion of the applicant and as a result the police agree to amend the information.

Where someone has had their identity stolen or cloned.

CRB quality assurance procedures are targeted at eliminating errors. In 2008-09, the accuracy rate for CRB Disclosures was 99.96 per cent.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for a *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced check have been made to the Criminal Records Bureau by people on List 99 in each year since 1997. [290362]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The following table illustrates the number of applications made for standard and enhanced checks to the Criminal Records Bureau by people on List 99 since the bureau's inception in 2002.

Financial year disclosure issued[1]	*Standard disclosure*	*Enhanced disclosure*	*Total List 99 matches*
2002-03	3	21	24
2003-04	7	50	57
2004-05	6	47	53
2005-06	6	57	63
2006-07	7	62	69
2007-08	3	82	85
2008-09	10	112	122
2009-10	5	41	46

[1] April to March.

NORTHERN IRELAND

EC Action

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many EU programmes in operation in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years his Department has assessed against their objectives. [297419]

Paul Goggins: This is a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

EC Budget

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the amount of the UK's net contribution to the EU budget in each year since 2005 attributable to Northern Ireland. [297418]

Paul Goggins: This is a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of EU structural funds on public expenditure in Northern Ireland; [297440]

(2) how much was allocated to Northern Ireland from each EU programme in each year since 2005. [297441]

Paul Goggins: These are matters for the Northern Ireland Administration.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK troops have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in Afghanistan since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [297345]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between 7 October 2001 (the start of operations) and 1 November 2009 224 UK troops have been killed as a result of operations in Afghanistan.

Information on fatalities for the current operation in Afghanistan are published on the MOD website, and updated whenever a fatality occurs, at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishFatalities.htm

Between 7 October 2001 (the start of operations) and 15 October 2009 (the latest date for which casualty information is available) 136 UK troops have been very seriously injured and 154 have been seriously injured.

Fatality and casualty statistics for UK military and civilian personnel in Afghanistan are routinely updated for each fortnight on the MOD website. The tables can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel are deployed on operations at each overseas location. [289123]

Bill Rammell: The endorsed force levels for UK military operations are set out in the following table by location.

Location	*Endorsed number (at 26 October 2009)*[1]
Afghanistan	[2]9,500
Iraq	[3]100
At sea	[4]1,050
Falklands/South Atlantic	1,500
Qatar	250
Cyprus	300
Kuwait	[5]<50
Kosovo	<50
Bahrain	[6]150
Oman	150
Bosnia	<50
Other[6]	100

[1] Rounded to 50.

[2] On 14 October 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, announced an increase in the number of troops deployed on Operation Herrick to 9,500. This new force level will be put into effect once three conditions are met: the Afghan Government demonstrates its commitment to bring forward the Afghan troops to be trained and to fight alongside our forces; UK troops are fully equipped for the operations they are asked to undertake; and that our commitment is part of an agreed approach across the international coalition, with all countries bearing their fair share.

[3] On 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 21, the Prime Minister set out for Parliament, the current number of UK military personnel we expect to remain in Iraq to conduct Navy training and Maritime support after the withdrawal of the bulk of our forces from southern Iraq and Baghdad. The UK/Iraq agreement has been ratified by the Presidency Council, and upon exchange of diplomatic notes between the UK and Iraq Governments, the UK will reinsert up to 100 personnel into Iraq to deliver its mandate.

[4] Numbers at sea in support of Operations Telic and Calash.

[5] In support of UK's mandate in Iraq.

[6] Small scale deployments in support of EU and UN missions, headquarters liaison officers and capacity building activities.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not therefore publish actual figures for personnel deployed in theatre.

Armed Forces: Families

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what organisations dedicated to service family welfare and support for the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force are supported by his Department; which of the organisations received funding from his Department in each of the last 10 years; and how much funding was provided in each case. [295088]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Ministry of Defence provides support to service families in many ways, using both internal and external organisations. Where the MOD engages with third sector organisations several funding methods are used, including contracts, grants in aid and both funded and unfunded voluntary work. However, an estimate of the funding provided to the HIVEs, establishments providing information to service families, and the Service Families Federations for the last three years are provided in the following table.

			£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
RN			
HIVES	259	215	238
Families Federation	145	149	185
Army			
HIVES	1,099	1,126	1,147
Families Federation	291	293	300
RAF			
HIVES	527	540	566
Families Federation	246	252	268

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of overseas units of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation are in each condition grade. [297926]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Single living accommodation (SLA) is graded by its physical condition and 'scale'. The best available data indicate that as at October 2009, overseas SLA was at the following grade.

Grade	*Number of SLA bed-spaces*	*Percentage*
1	2,278	12
2	1,399	7
3	3,860	20
4	11,403	59
Not graded	265	2

Service family accommodation (SFA) is assessed for its standard for condition (SfC), a measure of the physical condition of a property. As at October 2009, overseas SFA was at the following SfC.

SfC	*Number of SFA properties*	*Percentage*
S1fC	4,390	29
S2fC	3,930	26
S3fC	4,152	27
S4fC	2,848	18
Not yet assessed	99	Less than 1

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of UK units of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation are in each condition grade. [297927]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A new condition survey of service family accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales is currently being undertaken and is due to be completed by April 2010. Of those properties surveyed, at October 2009 the following are at each standard for condition (SfC):

SfC	*Number of properties*	*Percentage*
S1fC	12,412	37
S2fC	19,825	59
S3fC	1,191	4
S4fC	217	Less than 1

Similar surveys of SFA in Scotland and Northern Ireland (NI) will be earned out in due course. At present no SfC data are available for NI SFA, however current data for Scotland SFA are as follows:

SfC	*Number of properties*	*Percentage*
S1fC	3,134	97
S2fC	93	3
S3fC	1	Less than 1

Single living accommodation (SLA) is graded for its physical condition and 'scale'. As at December 2008, the latest date for which data is available, UK SLA was at the following grade:

Grade	*Number of SLA bed-spaces*	*As a percentage*
1	34,933	25
2	19,498	14
3	22,101	16
4	60,745	45

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were received by Modern Housing Solutions on the maintenance of service accommodation in each month in 2009 to date. [297936]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) is responsible for the repair and maintenance of some 44,000 service family accommodation properties in England and Wales, attending 200,000 response repair jobs each year.

The following table details the number of complaints received regarding the maintenance and repair in each month in 2009 for which figures are available:

Month	*Complaints*
January	534
February	465
March	497
April	532
May	480
June	497
July	573
August	518
September	584

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for task strength is of each battalion of the infantry. [297891]

Bill Rammell: The figures requested are provided in the following tables.

Division	*Unit*	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Number fit for task*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	632	586	525
	1 Coldstream Guards	626	606	522
	1 Scots Guards	753	665	580
	1 Irish Guards	633	629	554
	1 Welsh Guards	626	608	508
SCOTS	1 SCOTS	630	556	461
	2 SCOTS	627	518	455
	3 SCOTS	630	625	535
	4 SCOTS	686	584	528
	5 SCOTS	657	542	492
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	755	722	655
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	671	600	553
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	660	573	491
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	626	548	472
	1 Royal Anglian	713	734	673
	2 Royal Anglian	629	628	565
Kings	1 LANCS	757	721	635
	2 LANCS	612	622	582
	1 YORKS incl. Gurkha Reinforcement Company 3	686	605	533
	2 YORKS	623	493	393
	3 YORKS	751	608	539
Prince of Wales	1 Mercian incl. Gurkha Reinforcement Company 1	731	648	622
	2 Mercian	623	614	526
	3 Mercian	678	606	540
	1 Royal Welsh	623	611	559
	2 Royal Welsh	751	687	579
RIFLES	1 RIFLES	623	712	614
	2 RIFLES	623	730	611
	3 RIFLES	623	662	580
	4 RIFLES	711	752	662
	5 RIFLES	752	770	679
Royal Irish	1 Royal Irish	650	586	531
PARA	2 PARA	650	624	545
	3 PARA	650	625	547
Royal Gurkha Rifles	1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	643	619	594
	2 Royal Gurkha Rifles incl. Gurkha Reinforcement Company 2	758	658	620

In addition to the battalions shown above there are three incremental Guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other Guards battalions. This information is provided in the following table.

Unit	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Number fit for task*
Nijmegen Coy Grenadier Guards	108	107	96
7 Coy Coldstream Guards	108	97	92
F Coy Scots Guards	110	106	92

The figures in both tables include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen.

"Required strength" has been interpreted as the maximum number of posts in a battalion's peace time configuration.

"Actual strength" has been interpreted as the number of personnel assigned to a battalion for its planned duties. It will also include augmentees who are temporarily assigned if needed to support the role of the battalion, for operational military tasks and events that cannot be achieved within required strengths. Similarly, the figures exclude those assigned out of the battalion to augment other units.

"Fit for task" has been interpreted as fit to deploy for any form of duty on deployment, including personnel listed as having limited deployability. The difference between the actual strength and number fit for task represents those who are non-deployable because they are non-available for a combat role or non-effective (for example, due to medical reasons).

Army: Marines

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regiments and *(b)* battalions there are in the (i) Army and (ii) Royal Marines. [296428]

Bill Rammell: For the British Army, the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation produce these figures yearly in the UK Defence Statistics Publication—Chapter 4 Formations, Vessels, Aircraft and Vehicles of the Armed Forces, table 4.2, which is available on the DASA website at the following address:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2009/c4/table402.html

For your convenience, UKDS table 4.2 is shown as follows:

Chapter 4: Formations, Vessels, Aircraft and Vehicles of the Armed Forces

Table 4.2: Number of regiments, infantry battalions and major headquarters, in the Regular and Territorial Army, at 1 April each year

Combat arms			*1990*	*1997*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Armour	Regular Army	Regiments	19	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Territorial Army	Regiments	5	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Infantry	Regular Army	Battalions	55	40	40	40	40	36	36	36	36
	Territorial Army	Battalions	41	33	15	15	15	15	14	14	14
	Home Service Forces	Battalions	11	7	4	4	4	—	—	—	—
Special Forces	Regular Army[2]	Regiments	1	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Territorial Army[2]	Regiments	2	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Aviation	Regular Army[3]	Regiments	4	5	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Territorial Army[3]	Regiments	n/a	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Combat support											
Artillery	Regular Army[4]	Regiments	22	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14
	Territorial Army[5]	Regiments	7	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Engineers	Regular Army	Regiments	13	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
	Territorial Army	Regiments	8	9	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Signals	Regular Army	Regiments	13	11	12	11	11	11	12	12	12
	Territorial Army	Regiments	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	[6]5
Combat service support											
Equipment support	Regular Army	Battalions	n/a	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	Territorial Army	Battalions	n/a	5	4	4	4	4	4	[7]2	2
Logistics	Regular Army	Regiments	n/a	24	21	21	22	17	17	17	17
	Territorial Army	Regiments	n/a	19	17	17	17	15	17	17	17
Medical Regiments/ Field Hospitals[8]	Regular Army	Number	16	12	8	8	8	11	8	8	8
	Territorial Army	Number	17	18	15	15	15	13	13	13	13
Corps, Division and Brigade HQ[9]											
NATO Corps HQ			n/a	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Division/ District HQ	Deployable		n/a	n/a	2	2	2	2	2	2	[10]2

Chapter 4: Formations, Vessels, Aircraft and Vehicles of the Armed Forces

Table 4.2: Number of regiments, infantry battalions and major headquarters, in the Regular and Territorial Army, at 1 April each year

Combat arms			1990	1997	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]	2007[7]	2008[8]	2009[9]
	Non-deployable		n/a	n/a	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Brigade HQ	Deployable		n/a	n/a	9	9	9	8	8	7	7
	Non-deployable		n/a	n/a	13	13	13	10	9	9	9

[1] The numbers for 2006 reflect the Army's implementation of the Future Army Structure (FAS), announced on 16 December 2004.

[2] From 1 April 2000 these units form part of Direct Special Forces. See Table 4.4.

[3] From 1 April 2000 these units form part of the Joint Helicopter Command. See Table 4.4.

[4] Excludes 14th Regiment Royal Artillery.

[5] Includes the Honourable Artillery Company.

[6] As a result of Planning Round 2009, six R Signals Regts (V) were removed from the force structure.

[7] Restructuring of royal electrical and mechanical engineers was announced in 2008.

[8] Field ambulance structures have been subsumed into the Medical Regiment concept as part of structural changes across the medical services. Field ambulances still exist in the Territorial Army.

[9] Does not include temporary structures such as six Division HQ or 11 Light Brigade.

[10] There are three divisional HQs this year. Only two are complete divisions; a third, six division HQ, was created for a specific operational task, and will then fold.

Source:
MOD Resources and Plans.

The Royal Marines has one regiment—Commando Logistics Regiment, and no battalions.

Further information on the Royal Marines structure is available on the Royal Navy website at the following address:

http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/royalmarines/units-and-deployments/3-commando-brigade/

BAE Systems

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of BAE on defence procurement matters; [293838]

(2) what visits he has made to BAE factories in the last three months. [293839]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have not visited any BAE Systems sites in the last three months. I met Ian King, chief executive officer of BAE Systems on 17 June 2009, to discuss defence procurement matters.

My predecessor held the following discussions with BAE Systems representatives, and also visited their Barrow site on 24 March and Warton and Samlesbury sites on 8 April.

	Name	*Position*
6 November 2008	Ian King	Chief Executive Officer BAE
22 January 2009	Murray Easton	Managing Director Barrow-in-Furness Shipyard
23 January 2009	Alison Russell-Stevenson	Head of Communications BAE Systems Submarines
22 April 2009	M[illegible]ay Easton	Managing Director Barrow-in-Furness Shipyard

Ian King also attended meetings of the Na[illegible]onal Defence Industries Council chaired by my predecessor on 25 February and 3 June 2009.

Civil Contingency Reaction Force

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget has been allocated to the Civil Contingency Reaction Force in each year since 2002. [297525]

Bill Rammell: £1.8 million per year was allocated to the Civil Contingency Reaction Force between 2002 and March 2009 to fund role—specific training. The Civil Contingency Reaction Force was never mobilised, primarily because regular forces have been able to respond to crises in a shorter timescale, and its role has therefore now been discontinued. A framework of Joint Regional Liaison Officers and Brigade Reinforcement Teams continues to ensure effective liaison between regional army headquarters, local authorities and the emergency services.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which official of his Department is responsible for monitoring the compliance with human rights standards of members of Colombian military forces which have received training or other assistance from the UK. [296717]

Bill Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 621W, by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington).

Departmental Official Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what official visits he has made to *(a)* Royal Navy ships other than Type 42 destroyers and *(b)* Royal Navy bases in the last six months. [293816]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I visited the following Royal Navy ships in the last six months:

Date	*Royal Navy ship*	
18 May 2009	HMS Victorious	SSBN
9 July 2009	HMS Illustrious	Aircraft Carrier
24 October 2009	HMS Portland	T23 Frigate
24 October 2009	HMS Vengeance	SSBN

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider the merits of securing accreditation of his Department's helplines to the Helplines Association's quality standard; and if he will make a statement. [295727]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no current plans to accredit helplines with any organisation. Should there be a business need to do so, we will consider the merits of all organisations, including the Helplines Association, that offer accreditation.

Members: Correspondence

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the letters sent to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak from *(a)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Veterans) dated (i) 7 October 2009, reference D/Min(Veterans)KJ MC04309/2009, (ii) 15 August 2009, reference D/Min(Veterans)KJ MC03750/2009 and (iii) 28 July 2009, reference D/Min(Veterans)KJ MC03332/2009 and *(b)* the Secretary of State, dated 26 February 2009, reference D/Min(AF)BA MC00669/2009 were printed on only one side of paper; if he will make it his Department's policy to use two-sided printing for its correspondence; and whether he has made an estimate of the potential savings in respect of paper use consequent on the implementation of such a policy. [296862]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is MOD's aim to procure equipment, including printers, with sustainable development aims firmly in mind. The MOD is rolling out a single Defence-wide information technology infrastructure called the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) to some 2,000 sites worldwide. As DII rolls out, it is providing printers that automatically facilitate two-sided printing by default. This encourages two-sided printing at all times when appropriate, and reduces the amount of paper used. However, there are of course occasions when two-sided printing is not appropriate for the task.

On the issue of ministerial correspondence, I have considered the possibility of using two-sided printing, and have concluded that in this particular process, the probability of more wastage is likely to outweigh the benefit.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets the Royal Navy has seized from suspected pirates around the coast of Somalia since January 2009. [296894]

Bill Rammell: Since January 2009 the Royal Navy has seized, and where appropriate disposed of, a total of 25 weapons (19 assault rifles, three rocket propelled grenades and three pistols), a quantity of ammunition, five ladders, several grappling hooks, numerous fuel barrels and four skiffs.

South America: Foreign Relations

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates Ministers from his Department met representatives of the Government of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Argentina, *(c)* Venezuela, *(d)* Ecuador, *(e)* Chile, *(f)* Cuba, *(g)* Bolivia, *(h)* Paraguay and *(i)* Colombia to discuss defence relations in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [297920]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Minister for the Armed Forces met with the Brazilian Minister for Long Term Planning on 18 March 2008. He met to discuss defence relations and other topics with the Colombian ambassador on 20 July 2009, and he met with Brazilian Government representatives during his visit to Brazil from 2-4 September 2009. The Minister for International Defence and Security met with a delegation from Chile, headed by the Chilean Under-Secretary of Defence for the Chilean Air Force, on 7 July 2009; she also hosted a dinner in the evening.

Territorial Army: Training

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of allowing Territorial Army units to continue to train on drill nights until 1 April 2010. [296148]

Bill Rammell: As the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 28 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 354, £20 million has been found from the Treasury to ensure that the full range of normal training activities, including drill nights, can now continue for TA members.

Trident

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on the design of the next generation of the nuclear deterrent; what schedule has been prepared for its development and introduction into service; and if he will make a statement. [296940]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* Work on the Concept Phase for the future deterrent programme is progressing well. The Defence Board will be considering this work later this year. As we have previously said, we will update Parliament after the Concept Phase has been completed. We are currently planning on an In Service Date of 2024.

HEALTH

Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the full response of his Department to the report by the Rarer Cancers Forum entitled Off limits, published on 14 August 2009; what assessment his Department has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the recommendations of the report; what steps he is taking to assist NHS organisations in making decisions on the funding of off-label treatments for *(a)* cancer and *(b)* other conditions; and if he will make a statement. [297414]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have made no such response. To help primary care trusts (PCTs) improve the quality of their decision-making on the funding of drugs and treatments, including off-label treatments, where there is no positive National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance, we have commissioned a number of measures to support the introduction of improved local processes.

a set of public-facing principles to inform PCT decision-making was published in January 2009 available at:

www.npc.co.uk/policy/local/guiding_principles.htm

a set of Directions to PCTs making explicit their public law responsibilities for putting in place processes for making decisions on new drugs and treatments, came into force on 1 April 2009 available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_096067

a handbook of good practice guidance for the national health service was published in March 2009, covering both funding policies on new drugs and processes for considering individual funding requests available at:

www.npc.co.uk/policy/local/constitution_handbook.htm

and

strategic health authorities have been asked to review the way in which PCTs in their area collaborate to support effective decision-making on new drugs.

In addition, the National Prescribing Centre has embarked on a major programme of work to provide support and a bespoke and continuing training package for key PCT staff, to help ensure that local processes are able to develop in the way we want.

Cancer: Consultants

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS oncologists were employed in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [297229]

Ann Keen: Medical and clinical oncology staff numbers within England and the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) from 1997-2008 are shown in the following table.

Data for the two primary care trusts (PCTs) and one NHS trust, which make up the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency are also shown as far back as numbers are available.

Data are not collected by general geographical area, only by administrative entities (PCTs/trusts/special health authorities) and SHA area, therefore it is not possible to give numbers for Tees Valley.

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): Medical staff within the clinical and medical oncology specialties as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England												
All staff	918	1,003	1,073	1,115	1,211	1,289	1,399	1,524	1,572	1,653	1,669	1,776
of which:												
Consultants	376	401	415	440	480	500	549	593	653	715	731	768
North East SHA												
All staff	49	47	52	55	58	64	66	66	72	70	73	73
of which:												
Consultants	23	22	24	27	32	31	32	32	41	42	36	40
Middlesbrough PCT[1]												
All staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
of which:												
Consultants	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland PCT[1]												
All staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
of which:												
Consultants	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust[2]												
All staff	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	10	13	14	18	17	15	15
of which:												
Consultants	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	6	8	8	12	12	8	11

n/a = Not applicable

[1] These PCTs were created in 2002.

[2] This organisation was created in 2002. It was created from two organisations, one of which merged only in part; due to this part merger equivalent data for years prior to 2002 are not available.

[3] Not available.

Source:

The Information Centre for Health and Social Care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Cancer: Death

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts *(a)* failed, *(b)* under-achieved and *(c)* achieved the Care Quality Commission's target reduction rate for cancer mortality in those aged under 75 years in 2008-09; and what definition the Care Quality Commission uses of (i) failure and (ii) under-achievement in this regard. [297201]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows 2008-09 primary care trust scores for the Care Quality Commission's 'Reduction in cancer mortality rate in people age under 75' indicator.

The definitions used by the Care Quality Commission to determine the scores for this indicator are:

Achieved = Performance consistent with plan;

Underachieved = Performance poorer than plan;

Failed = Performance poorer than plan by a clear margin (two standard deviations).

Reduction in cancer mortality rate in people age under 75

Trust name	*2008-09 trust scores*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Barnet Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Berkshire East Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Berkshire West Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Bexley Care Trust	Achieved
Birmingham East and North Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Blackpool Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Bradford and Airedale Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Bristol Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Bromley Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Calderdale Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
City and Hackney Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust	Achieved
County Durham Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Croydon Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Cumbria Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Darlington Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Devon Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Doncaster Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Dorset Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Dudley Primary Care Trust	Achieved
East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
East Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Enfield Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Gateshead Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Halton and St. Helens Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Hampshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Harrow Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Heart of Birmingham Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Hillingdon Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Hounslow Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Hull Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Islington Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Kingston Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Kirklees Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Knowsley Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Leeds Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Lewisham Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Luton Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Manchester Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Medway Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Mid Essex Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Newcastle Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Newham Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Norfolk Primary Care Trust	Achieved
North East Essex Primary Care Trust	Achieved
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	Achieved
North Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
North Somerset Primary Care Trust	Achieved
North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Northumberland Care Trust	Achieved
Nottingham City Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Oldham Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Peterborough Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Plymouth Teaching Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Redbridge Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care trust	Achieved
Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Rotherham Primary Care Trust	Achieved

Reduction in cancer mortality rate in people age under 75

Trust name	*2008-09 trust scores*
Sandwell Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Sefton Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Sheffield Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Solihull Care Trust	Achieved
South Birmingham Primary Care Trust	Achieved
South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
South Tyneside Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Southampton City Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Stockport Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Suffolk Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Swindon Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Torbay Care Trust	Achieved
Wakefield District Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust	Achieved
West Essex Primary Care Trust	Achieved
West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust	Achieved
West Kent Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Westminster Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust	Achieved
Barnsley Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Bath and North East Somerset Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching Primary Care trust	Underachieved
Camden Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Derby City Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Hartlepool Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Havering Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Herefordshire Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
North Tyneside Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Salford Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Somerset Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
South East Essex Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Southwark Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Stoke on Trent Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Surrey Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Warrington Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
West Sussex Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Worcestershire Primary Care Trust	Underachieved
Bolton Primary Care Trust	Failed
Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust	Failed
Bury Primary Care Trust	Failed
Ealing Primary Care Trust	Failed
Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust	Failed
Lambeth Primary Care Trust	Failed
Leicester City Primary Care Trust	Failed
Lincolnshire Teaching Primary Care Trust	Failed
Liverpool Primary Care Trust	Failed
Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust	Failed
Shropshire County Primary Care Trust	Failed
South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust	Failed
South West Essex Primary Care Trust	Failed
Tameside and Glossop Primary Care trust	Failed
Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust	Failed
Trafford Primary Care Trust	Failed
Wandsworth Primary Care Trust	Failed
Warwickshire Primary Care Trust	Failed
Wiltshire Primary Care Trust	Failed

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the NHS in implementing collaborative commissioning processes, as recommended by his Department's National Cancer Director in his November 2008 report on improving access to medicines for NHS patients; what steps he is taking to share the example of the North East cancer drugs group with other geographical areas in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [297199]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Strategic health authorities are working with their primary care trusts to support collaborative commissioning in their areas. Guidance on collaborative approaches to decision-making is also included in "Supporting rational local decision-making about medicines (and treatments): A handbook of good practice guidance" available at:

www.npc.co.uk/policy/localconstitution_handbook.htm

and this references the example of the North East cancer drugs group.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure patients are given access to balanced written information on the *(a)* benefits, *(b)* toxicities and *(c)* costs of novel (i) on-label and (ii) off-label treatments; as recommended by his Department's National Cancer Director in his report on Improving access to medicines for NHS patients. [297318]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care, published in March 2009, emphasised the importance of providing high quality written information to patients who wish to pay for additional private care. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The guidance makes clear that patients should be given full information about the potential benefits, risks, burdens and side effects of any treatment before being asked to consent to treatment.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department allocated for biomedical research on the causes and treatment of myalgic encephalomyelitis in 2008-09. [297853]

Gillian Merron: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The MRC's total expenditure on chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) research amounted to £730,000 in 2008-09.

Over the 10 years to 2008-09, a large part of the Department's total expenditure on health research was devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time, including a number concerned with CFS/ME, are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department plans to make myalgic encephalomyelitis a notifiable illness in schools; [297854]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with officials from myalgic encephalomyelitis charities and campaign groups on proposals to make myalgic encephalomyelitis a notifiable illness in schools. [297855]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to make chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) a notifiable illness in schools.

Since 2007, the Department has received a large number of requests from many organisations, including CFS/ME stakeholders, campaigning for their disease or condition to be recognised as a notifiable disease. The Department's position remains that this classification should be used only for a relatively small number of infectious diseases where monitoring is required to identify sources of infection, and not as a means for collecting statistical information on the prevalence of specific conditions.

Commissioning Support Appraisals Service

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish in full the statement his Department's spokesperson issued to the *Daily Mail* on 19 October 2009 in response to that newspaper's publication of a report on the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service; what assessment his Department has made of the effect on levels of patient care of the operation of the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service; and if he will make a statement; [297685]

(2) what the cost to the public purse of the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service has been since its inception; [297686]

(3) on what date *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department were first informed of the operations within the NHS of the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service; and if he will make a statement; [297687]

(4) what representations he has received on the operation of the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service; and if he will make a statement; [297688]

(5) what involvement his Department had in the establishment of the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service in the NHS; [297712]

(6) what meetings *(a)* Ministers and officials of his Department and *(b)* officials of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have had with the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service. [297714]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department had no involvement in the establishment of the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service. Ministers and officials became aware of its operation in October 2009.

No information is held centrally on the cost of the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service. We understand that it receives its funding from participating national health service organisations. No assessment of its operation has been made by the Department.

No representations have been received and there have been no meetings between Ministers or officials and representatives of the Commissioning Support Appraisals Service. Meetings with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are a matter for the institute.

A copy of the Department's statement to the *Daily Mail* has been placed in the Library.

Community Nurses: Manpower

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community nurses were working as *(a)* district nurses, *(b)* health visitors and *(c)* general practice nurses on the latest date for which figures are available. [297518]

Ann Keen: The numbers of community nurses working as district nurses, health visitors and general practice nurses at 30 September 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, are shown in the following table:

Community nurses as at 30 September 2008	*Headcount*
District Nurses	10,446
Health Visitors	11,190
Practice Nurses	22,048

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Cosmetics: Health Hazards

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to prevent harm to human health arising from the use of skin-whitening products, with particular reference to products containing the ingredients *(a)* mercury, *(b)* kojic acid, *(c)* steroids and *(d)* hydroquinone. [297874]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) deals with skin-whitening products that contain cortico-steroids as this makes such a product a medicine by definition and therefore subject to the controls of the Medicines Act 1968 and associated legislation.

Hydroquinone and mercuric iodide in skin-whitening products are controlled under Cosmetics (Safety) Regulations 2008, as amended, which is the jurisdiction of Trading Standards. Kojic acid is not controlled by medicines legislation or cosmetics legislation and therefore does not fall under the jurisdiction of the MHRA or Trading Standards.

Since 2008, the MHRA has conducted 16 visits often with Trading Standards to retail outlets in the United Kingdom, which have resulted in the removal and seizure of hundreds of illegal skin-whitening creams to a value in excess of £65,000.

In addition, since 2006, the MHRA has conducted six successful prosecutions, five of which have been jointly with Trading Standards. This has resulted in suspended prison sentences and fines to the value of £247,400 for breaches of the Medicines Act, the Cosmetics Product (Safety) Regulations and Consumer Protection Act. There are two further joint prosecutions currently under way.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on the effects on human health of skin-whitening products. [297875]

Gillian Merron: None. The Department has not commissioned research into the effects of skin-whitening products on human health.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions resulted from the use of skin-whitening products in the latest period for which figures are available. [297876]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on hospital admissions following the use of skin-whitening products is not collected centrally.

Dental Services: St Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on NHS general dental services in St. Albans in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each of the last five years. [297529]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

However, expenditure on primary dental care services in West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) 2006-07 to 2008-09 is as follows:

£000

Financial year	*Expenditure type*	*Gross expenditure*	*Dental charges paid by patients*	*Net expenditure*
2006-07	actual	24,697	4,889	19,808
	At 2008-09 prices	26,034	5,154	20,880
2007-08	actual	26,307	5,755	20,552
	At 2008-09 prices	26,952	5,896	21,056
2008-09	actual	30,813	5,352	25,461

Notes:

1. As the data reflect the contract framework for primary dental care services introduced from 1 April 2006, they include all relevant service costs, and are based on the PCT areas introduced from 1 October 2006, they are not directly comparable with the available pre-2006 data.

2. Actual expenditure figures have been converted into 2008-09 prices using the gross domestic product deflator index as at 29 September 2009.

Source:

Calculated from details of gross primary dental care expenditure, and income from dental charges, recorded in the notes to the PCT's accounts.

Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made by his Department on its investigation of the *(a)* extent and *(b)* causes of variations in international drug usage; whether any interim findings of that investigation are available; when he expects that investigation to conclude; if he will publish the findings of that investigation; and if he will make a statement. [297309]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson), the then Secretary of State for Health, asked Professor Mike Richards to take this work forward. Good progress is being made and Professor Richards expects to report to Ministers in early 2010.

Drugs: Side Effects

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is available to GPs and pharmacists on the chemical composition of *(a)* generic and *(b)* branded drugs to enable risks of adverse reactions to be taken into account when prescribing. [297132]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: For both generic and branded medicines the composition, with respect to the primary active ingredient and any other ingredients which may have a pharmacological effect is declared on product labelling together with any appropriate warnings. The patient leaflet included in the packaging will also declare all ingredients in the composition and repeat any warnings necessary.

A full qualitative composition including all ingredients in the medicine is given in the patient leaflet and in the prescribers data sheet, otherwise know as a Summary of Product Characteristics, together with a description of any adverse reactions which have been observed with the medicine and others which may possibly occur. These reference documents for branded medicines are available in published compendia in book form and online.

Because generic medicines are licensed as therapeutically equivalent to the original branded versions then the risks of adverse reactions caused by the active ingredient should be the same.

General Practitioners: St Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners were providing NHS services in St. Albans constituency on the most recent date for which figures are available. [297526]

Ann Keen: Information is not held in the format requested.

The St. Albans constituency is contained within and serviced by West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT). At 30 September 2008 there were 360 general practitioners within this PCT.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the NHS is to withdraw from its reciprocal agreements with the health service of *(a)* Jersey, *(b)* Guernsey and *(c)* the Isle of Man; what assessment he has made of the consequences for the NHS of each termination; and if he will make a statement. [296390]

Gillian Merron: The Department considers it important that all of the United Kingdom's bilateral health agreements with other countries are evidence based, continue to be relevant and represent value for money for the British taxpayer.

The Department ended the bilateral agreement with the Channel Islands (including Jersey and Guernsey) and gave notice on the agreement with the Isle of Man, as it considers that they are out of place considering the wide availability of travel insurance, and there is little robust data to justify the business case and value for money for the national health service. The agreement with the Channel Islands ended on 31 March 2009 and the agreement with the Isle of Man will terminate on 31 March 2010. Following the end of these agreements, the UK will no longer provide allocations to fund referrals to the UK. Visitors from these islands will be subject to the same NHS charging regulations as all other overseas visitors, so they are advised to have travel insurance when visiting the UK to avoid incurring health care costs. Following termination of these agreements, UK travellers to the islands are also advised to have travel insurance.

Health Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust, *(b)* South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and *(c)* York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust spent on healthcare in each of the last three years. [297564]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the amounts spent by North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT), South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on healthcare in each of the last three years.

£000

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,046,418	989,278	976,675
York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	180,536
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	417,778	384,063	358,292

Notes:

1. The figures provided for the PCT represent the total expenditure on the purchase of healthcare from providers for its own resident population (with the exception of dental and ophthalmic services where there is no need for PCTs to distinguish between spend on residents or non-residents). The figures include healthcare commissioned from the PCT's own provider function.
2. National health service trusts are not funded directly by the Department. Money voted to the Department by Parliament is allocated to PCTs who act as commissioners to ensure that the health needs of their local populations are addressed.
3. NHS trusts are not required to disclose separately their spend on healthcare and non-healthcare items in their summarisation schedules or accounts. The data provided are the trusts' total operating expenses.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules.

Health: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 334W, on cardiovascular system: screening, if he will place in the Library a copy of the findings of the qualitative research project commissioned by the Central Office of Information. [297376]

Ann Keen: A copy of the Central Office of Information research management summary has been placed in the Library.

Influenza

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is considering the provision of additional support for general practitioner surgeries in the winter months to assist with *(a)* administering the swine influenza vaccine and *(b)* an increase in patients suffering from influenza. [297814]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: General practices will receive an additional payment of £5.25 for each dose of swine flu vaccine they administer to patients in the clinically at-risk priority groups announced by the Department's chief medical officer on 13 August 2009. In addition, NHS Employers, on behalf of the Government, are discussing with the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee arrangements for supporting practices in the event of there being a significant increase in the number of patients suffering from swine influenza.

Influenza: Herefordshire

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of *(a)* the H1N1 influenza vaccine and *(b)* seasonal influenza vaccines are available for distribution (i) nationwide and (ii) in Herefordshire; what the timetable for distribution is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [297636]

Gillian Merron: As of 2 November 2009 6.2 million doses of H1N1 vaccine have been delivered into the Department's central warehouse. This vaccine is in the process of being delivered to trusts and general practitioner (GP) surgeries. So far, 17,100 doses have been sent to locations within Herefordshire Primary Care Trust. The remainder of scheduled deliveries will be completed in November.

Vaccine manufacturers have advised the Department that 15.3 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine are available in the United Kingdom for the 2009-10 influenza season. Seasonal influenza vaccine is ordered by GP practices direct from the manufacturers. The Department is not involved in the ordering process and does not have information about amounts ordered for particular localities. Seasonal influenza vaccine is distributed from mid-September onwards, with most GP practices starting vaccination from early October.

Influenza: Vaccination

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are eligible to receive *(a)* the H1N1 influenza vaccine and *(b)* seasonal influenza vaccines (i) nationwide and (ii) in Herefordshire; and if he will make a statement. [297637]

Gillian Merron: In calculating those identified to receive the H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines, planning estimates have been used and figures have been rounded up to the nearest 0.25 million at a national level and nearest 5,000 at a local level.

The total estimated number of people in England who fall into a priority group for H1N1 influenza vaccination (excluding frontline health and social care workers) is up to 9.5 million.

In Herefordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) the estimated figure for those who fall into a priority group for H1N1 influenza vaccination is around 30,000.

Frontline health and social care workers can also receive the H1N1 vaccine. This applies to over 2 million individuals in England and around 5,000 in Herefordshire.

The total estimated number of people in England in the at risk groups, who are eligible for the seasonal influenza vaccination this year, is up to 13 million.

The total estimated number of people in Herefordshire PCT in the at risk group who are eligible for seasonal influenza vaccination this year, is around 45,000.

Staff involved in direct patient care are also recommended to receive a seasonal flu vaccine.

Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether officials of his Department have had discussions with the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the incidence of malnutrition in *(a)* NHS hospitals and *(b)* care homes; and if he will make a statement. [296994]

Ann Keen: There have been no discussions between the Department and the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the incidence of malnutrition in national health service hospitals and care homes.

The importance of good quality food for patients is recognised, both in terms of improving their health and in relation to their overall experience of services. Clinicians have a duty to ensure patients receive appropriate treatment for any condition. This includes malnutrition.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in improving the timeliness of decision-making by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence since the publication of his Department's report on Improving access to medicines for NHS patients in November 2008; how his Department plans to monitor progress in implementing this recommendation in the future; and if he will make a statement. [297200]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Good progress is being made in improving the timeliness of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisal guidance, supported by increased investment in appraisal capacity and the introduction of new, simpler arrangements for identifying the topics that NICE will appraise. Progress will be monitored through routine performance monitoring arrangements between the Department and NICE.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of enforcement of Article 81 of the European Directive on Control of Medicines in tackling medicines shortages in the UK. [297206]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Article 81 of directive 2001/83/EC requires that marketing authorisation holders and distributors of their medicines for human use ensure, within the limits of their responsibilities, appropriate and continuous supplies of the medicines so that the needs of patients are covered. This requirement was transposed into United Kingdom medicines legislation in 2005 and guidance was issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the enforcement authority for the UK.

The MHRA is aware of concerns that the parallel export of medicines may contribute to shortages in the UK. The MHRA however, has no evidence that licensed wholesalers are failing to meet this obligation.

The Department and the MHRA are working with other key organisations and industry to produce a guidance document concerning the issue of medicines shortages and industry obligations under article 81.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what contingency arrangements his Department has in place to manage shortages in the supply of medicines; [297207]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on shortages in the supply of medicines; and if he will make a statement. [297208]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department, in conjunction with the pharmaceutical industry, has published joint best practice guidelines, entitled "Notification and Management of Medicines Shortages". They are designed to help minimise the impact of any medicine shortage. These guidelines can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_063330

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

I recently met with my hon. Friend the Member for Watford (Claire Ward) to discuss among other things, possible medicines shortages, on 21 October. Also present were SIGMA Pharmaceuticals and Carter Chemist. Departmental officials have frequent contact with manufacturers, wholesalers and health care professionals about shortages and discontinuations of medicines.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to assess the level of transparency in primary care trust decision-making on the funding of treatments for patients with *(a)* cancer and *(b)* other conditions; if he will make it his policy to ask the Care Quality Commission to assess the level of transparency in such decision-making in its periodic reviews; and if he will make a statement. [297316]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Directions came into force on 1 April 2009, which require primary care trusts to put in place robust and transparent processes for making decisions on new drugs and treatments. We have no plans to conduct a specific assessment of primary care trust compliance with these nor to ask the Care Quality Commission to do so.

NHS: Pay

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has directed NHS trusts to implement the provisions of the October 2005 joint statement on Agenda for Change and NHS Contractors Staff; and if he will make a statement. [297723]

Ann Keen: The Department has not directed NHS trusts to implement the joint statement, which was published in October 2005. The Department continues to work to ensure employers are fully aware of the joint statement, to promote implementation of this national agreement and to help resolve issues where appropriate by issuing best practice guidance, writing to the national health service and working with employers and unions where issues arise.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS bodies in the South East have implemented the provisions of the October 2005 joint statement on Agenda for Change and NHS Contractors Staff. [297724]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Where the Department is made aware of local difficulties, we encourage local resolution. We are not aware of any specific difficulties with implementation of the joint statement in the South East.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the effectiveness of the operation of his Department's guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care, since the guidance was published in March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [297194]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have received a number of inquiries about how the guidance applies in particular circumstances but no formal representations since the Department's guidance on national health service patients who wish to pay for additional private care was published in March 2009.

North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed as *(a)* managers, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* doctors and *(d)* other administrative staff by North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust in each of the last five years. [297562]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table:

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) as at 30 September each year

			2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All NHS staff			7,053	7,095	7,042	6,844	6,999
	Of which:						
	Managers		188	183	159	115	136
		Senior managers	38	37	33	20	19
		Managers	150	146	126	95	117
	Nurses		2,078	2,063	2,033	1,969	1,957
		Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,703	1,712	1,641	1,577	1,565
		GP Practice Nurses	375	351	392	392	392
	Administrative and Clerical Staff		719	816	738	693	766
		Central Functions	416	476	447	400	461
		Hotel, Property and Estates	1	2	3	3	4
		Scientific, Therapeutic and Technical Staff	18	18	6	25	7
		Clinical Support	284	320	282	265	294

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) as at 30 September each year

			2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	All Doctors		741	762	761	795	784
		General Practitioners	624	639	633	663	655
		HCHS Doctors	117	123	128	132	129

Notes:

1. North Yorkshire and York PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT, Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT and Selby and York PCT. Figures for 2004 and 2005 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.

2. Examples of staff in central functions are staff in human resources, informatics, payroll, and library staff. Examples of staff in hotel, property and estates are clerical laundry staff, domestic services and home wardens. Examples of staff in science, therapeutic and technician support are clerical staff in audiology, haematology, dietetics and microbiology. Examples of staff in clinical support are clerical staff in medical records, patient services, medical secretaries.

3. North Yorkshire and York PCT have not submitted a return GP practice staff since 30 September 2006.

4. Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

5. *Data Quality*

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on employment costs of *(a)* managers, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* doctors and *(d)* other administrative staff at North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust in each of the last five years. [297563]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the staffing costs of *(a)* managers and senior managers, *(b)* nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, *(c)* medical staff and *(d)* administrative and clerical staff at the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) in each of the last five years.

Annual Staffing Costs—North Yorkshire and York PCT

£000

	Managers and senior managers	Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	Medical staff	Admin and clerical staff
2008-09	10,233	50,079	17,485	14,234
2007-08	10,442	54,628	15,420	12,076
2006-07	11,709	56,930	14,359	10,427
2005-06	12,587	57,258	13,376	10,570
2004-05	12,582	48,260	12,619	9,314

Notes:

1. The figures provided are for total expenditure on staff and will include social security costs, pension contributions and early retirement costs. Redundancy costs are not included. The figures also include staff not directly employed by the organisation, such as agency staff.

2. Information is from the financial returns of national health service bodies. The data are not audited but are validated to the audited summarisation schedules.

3. North Yorkshire and York PCT was formed in October 2006 as a result of the merger of the Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, the Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT, the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT and the Selby and York PCT. Therefore, the figures reported for 2005-06 and 2004-05 are the sum of the four predecessor PCTs.

Source:

Financial Returns.

Pain: Drugs

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what medication the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is assessing in relation to the treatment of complex regional pain syndrome. [297219]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is not developing guidance specifically on the treatment of complex regional pain syndrome.

NICE is developing a short clinical guideline on the pharmacological management of neuropathic pain in adults in non-specialist settings and recently published draft guidance for consultation. The published scope for this guideline, which details the treatments it will cover, is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=download&o=44204

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of administering the NHS prescription charging system in each of the last three years. [297716]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table provides an estimate of direct and overhead costs for the administration of prescription pre-payment, maternity exemption and medical exemption certificates for the last three complete financial years in England. These costs are the only elements of the prescription charging system that can be separately identified.

Pre-payment certificates maternity and medical exemption certificate

National health service prescription charge administrative process	*£000*
2006-07	3,300
2007-08	3,800
2008-09	3,900

Costs for processing prescription charges cannot be provided, because they are processed as part of the reimbursement arrangements for dispensers in England and are not separately identifiable. Costs cannot be provided for the pursuit of prescription charge fraud as it is not possible to separately identify this from the cost of tackling other types of NHS fraud.

There are additional costs associated with the issuing of NHS tax credit certificates and assessment of eligibility for the NHS Low Income Scheme. These are not included in the table because the English costs cannot be isolated from costs for the devolved Administrations. In addition these certificates do not solely relate to prescription charges as NHS tax credit certificates and the NHS Low Income Scheme also provides help with the cost of NHS dental treatment, sight tests, a voucher towards the cost of glasses or contact lenses, NHS wigs and fabric supports, the cost of travel to receive NHS treatment, as well as help with NHS prescription charges.

Private Patients

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to issue guidance to primary care trusts on the circumstances in which they *(a)* may and *(b)* may not reimburse patients for treatments initially paid for privately which were the subject of an appeal by the patient. [297317]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have no plans to issue further guidance. Individual cases are a matter for primary care trusts to determine.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed as *(a)* managers, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* doctors and *(d)* other administrative staff by South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years. [297642]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table:

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as at 30 September each year

			2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All NHS staff			4,546	4,419	4,481	4,405	4,574
	of which:						
	Managers		88	82	79	86	86
		Senior managers	22	22	19	22	29
		Managers	66	60	60	64	57
	Nurses		2,334	2,283	2,325	2,300	2,369
		Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,334	2,283	2,325	2,300	2,369
		GP practice nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Administrative and clerical staff		1,444	1,324	1,318	1,232	1,318
		Central functions	509	459	433	397	455
		Hotel, property and estates	40	33	34	34	27
		Scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	186	168	164	134	139
		Clinical support	709	664	687	667	696
		Ambulance service support	0	0	0	0	1
	All doctors		680	730	759	787	801
		General practitioners	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		HCHS doctors	680	730	759	787	801

n/a= Not applicable

Notes:

1. General practitioners (GPs) work for primary care trusts (PCTs) which operate within strategic health authorities (SHAs), no GPs are employed directly by NHS trusts. General practice nurses are employed by the individual GP partnerships.

2. Examples of staff in central functions are staff in human resources, informatics, payroll, and library staff. Examples of staff in hotel, property and estates are clerical laundry staff, domestic services and home wardens. Examples of staff in scientific, therapeutic and technical support are clerical staff in audiology, haematology, dietetics and microbiology. Examples of staff in clinical support are clerical staff in medical records, patient services, medical secretaries.

3. Data Quality:

Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staffing costs of *(a)* managers, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* doctors and *(d)* other administrative staff at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust were in each of the last five years. [297643]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the staffing costs of *(a)* managers and senior managers, *(b)* nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, *(c)* medical staff and *(d)* administrative and clerical staff at the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years.

Annual staffing costs: South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

£000

	Managers and senior managers	*Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Medical staff*	*Administrative and clerical staff*
2008-09	8,461	90,659	78,478	26,064
2007-08	7,605	84,990	74,135	23,496
2006-07	7,561	82,324	71,547	22,802
2005-06	7,639	76,729	66,993	22,150
2004-05	8,445	73,282	65,820	23,915

Notes:

1. The figures provided are for total expenditure on staff and will include social security costs, pension contributions and early retirement costs. Redundancy costs are not included. The figures also include staff not directly employed by the organisation, such as agency staff.
2. Information is from the financial returns of national health service bodies. The data are not audited but are validated to the audited summarisation schedules.
3. The South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was licensed as a foundation trust in May 2009.

Source:

Financial Returns.

Speech Therapy: Manpower

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified speech therapists there are per head of population in each primary care trust. [297998]

Ann Keen: The following table contains the number of qualified speech therapists per head of population in each primary care trust.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified speech therapists per 100,000 population by strategic health authority area and by primary care trust (PCT) area in England as at 30 September 2008

		Speech therapists per 100,000 population
North East Strategic Health Authority		
Newcastle PCT	5D7	5.8
North Tyneside PCT	5D8	20.8
Hartlepool PCT	5D9	28.3
North Tees PCT	5E1	9.4
Darlington PCT	5J9	62.7
Gateshead PCT	5KF	16.8
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	17.1
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	5QR	19.4
Northumberland Care Trust	TAC	8.4
North West Strategic Health Authority		
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	5CC	32.7
Salford PCT	5F5	14.5
Stockport PCT	5F7	11.0
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5HG	11.4
Bolton PCT	5HQ	14.8
Warrington PCT	5J2	14.8
Knowsley PCT	5J4	17.9
Oldham PCT	5J5	15.9
Bury PCT	SJX	10.9
Tameside and Glossop PCT	5LH	10.8
Cumbria PCT	5NE	13.9
North Lancashire PCT	5NF	14.5
Central Lancashire PCT	5NG	16.1
East Lancashire PCT	5NH	9.4
Sefton PCT	5NJ	10.2
Wirral PCT	5NK	10.7
Liverpool PCT	5NL	11.3
Halton and St. Helens PCT	5NM	8.4
West Cheshire PCT	5NN	13.2
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5NP	9.2
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	5NQ	14.5
Trafford PCT	5NR	15.0
Manchester PCT	5NT	18.1
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority		
North Lincolnshire PCT	5EF	14.8
Rotherham PCT	5H8	11.8
Barnsley PCT	5JE	11.5
Leeds PCT	5N1	15.2
Kirklees PCT	5N2	6.2
Wakefield District PCT	5N3	8.7
Sheffield PCT	5N4	16.7
North Yorkshire and York PCT	5NV	7.9
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	5NW	18.2
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	5NY	9.0
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority		
Derbyshire County PCT	5N6	11.3
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	5N8	21.1
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N9	6.7
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	5PA	4.1
Leicester City Teaching PCT	5PC	24.8
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	7.9
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority		
Herefordshire PCT	5CN	10.0
South Birmingham PCT	5M1	27.0
Walsall Teaching PCT	5M3	12.5
Coventry Teaching PCT	5MD	18.1
Telford and Wrekin PCT	5MK	25.9
Wolverhampton City PCT	5MV	8.9
Heart Of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5MX	0.4
Dudley PCT	5PE	22.2
Sandwell PCT	5PF	11.8
Birmingham East and North PCT	5PG	1.5
North Staffordshire PCT	5PH	19.8
South Staffordshire PCT	5PK	10.0
Worcestershire PCT	5PL	9.1
Warwickshire PCT	5PM	13.9
Solihull Care Trust	TAM	8.7
East of England Strategic Health Authority		
South East Essex PCT	5P1	3.9
Bedfordshire PCT	5P2	11.0
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	5P3	12.6

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified speech therapists per 100,000 population by strategic health authority area and by primary care trust (PCT) area in England as at 30 September 2008

		Speech therapists per 100,000 population
West Hertfordshire PCT	5P4	11.1
Peterborough PCT	5PN	17.7
Cambridgeshire PCT	5PP	12.4
Norfolk PCT	5PQ	11.8
Great Yarmouth and Waveny Teaching PCT	5PR	12.7
Suffolk PCT	5PT	9.7
West Essex PCT	5PV	9.0
North East Essex PCT	5PW	9.1
Mid Essex PCT	5PX	8.7
South West Essex Teaching PCT	5PY	6.5
London Strategic Health Authority		
Havering PCT	5A4	1.7
Kingston PCT	SA5	16.9
Bromley PCT	5A7	12.2
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	18.8
Barnet PCT	SA9	14.8
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	9.9
Enfield PCT	5C1	10.4
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	19.0
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	17.7
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	21.3
Newham PCT	5C5	15.6
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	5.3
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	20.3
Ealing PCT	5HX	13.6
Hounslow PCT	5HY	13.5
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	8.1
Harrow PCT	5K6	0.5
Camden PCT	5K7	2.1
Islington PCT	5K8	50.8
Croydon PCT	5K9	14.9
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	17.7
Westminster PCT	5LC	16.1
Lambeth PCT	5LD	12.0
Southwark PCT	5LE	15.5
Lewisham PCT	5LF	15.3
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	19.7
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	SM6	9.4
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	12.6
Redbridge PCT	5NA	10.1
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	22.9
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	10.7
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority		
Medway PCT	5L3	24.8
Surrey PCT	5P5	11.4
West Sussex Teaching PCT	5P6	11.8
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5P7	9.6
Hastings and Rother PCT	5P8	13.5
West Kent PCT	5P9	5.6
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	5QA	9.2
South Central Strategic Health Authority		
Milton Keynes PCT	5CQ	13.5
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5FE	30.0
Southampton City PCT	5L1	18.8
Hampshire PCT	5QC	2.0
Buckinghamshire PCT	5QD	13.8
Oxfordshire PCT	5QE	12.7
Berkshire West PCT	5QF	14.6
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	5QG	9.2
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	5QT	5.7
South West Strategic Health Authority		
South Gloucestershire PCT	5A3	1.2
Plymouth Teaching PCT	5F1	26.1
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5FL	20.5
Swindon PCT	5K3	19.2
North Somerset PCT	5M8	0.5
Gloucestershire PCT	5QH	9.8
Bristol Teaching PCT	5QJ	1.7
Wiltshire PCT	5QK	6.8
Somerset PCT	5QL	10.7
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	5QN	23.8
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5QP	10.1
Devon PCT	5QQ	6.8

Notes:
1. Figures are based on headcount qualified speech and language therapist figures.
2. Figures for individual PCTs do not include qualified speech and language therapists employed by NHS trusts. Nationally 20 per cent. of such staff are employed by trusts.
3. Figures are rounded to one decimal place.

Sources:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.
Primary Care Organisation Mid Year Final Population Estimates 2001 Population Census Based. Office of National Statistics Population Estimates.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speech therapists completed their training in the UK in each of the last five years; and what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* job vacancies in this profession and *(b)* trained speech therapists. [297999]

Ann Keen: The following table contains the number of speech and language therapy commissions in each of the last five years.

Allied Health Professionals Training Commissions 1996-97 to 2008-09

	Source	*Speech therapy*
1996-97	BS	74
1997-98	A/R	75
1998-99	A/R[1]	455
1999-2000	Revised Q4	457
2000-01	QMR Q4	558
2001-02	QMR Q4	553
2002-03	QMR Q4	597
2003-04	QMR Q4	630
2004-05	QMR Q4	740
2005-06	QMR Q4	797
2006-07	QMR Q4	758
2007-08	QMR Q4	770
2008-09	QMR Q4	79

[1] Unvalidated 1998-99 outturn.

Note:
BS = Balance Sheet.
A/R = non-medical education and training (NMET) accountability report.
QMR = NMET quarterly monitoring reports.

Source:
NHS Pay Review body.

The last national health service vacancy survey showed that at March 2008 there were 30 vacancies in speech and language therapy that trusts had actively been trying to fill.

A table giving the number of trained speech therapists as at September 2008 is as follows.

England as at September 2008

	Speech and language therapy
Qualified staff	7,115
Consultant therapist	12
Manager	313
Therapist	6,676
Scientist	—
Scientific officer	—
Technician	—
Instructor/teacher	112
Tutor	2

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria were used to decide which areas should receive swine influenza vaccines first. [297828]

Gillian Merron: The distribution of swine flu vaccine is currently organised through external contractors Movianto, who handle the distribution of all national health service vaccine supplies. Movianto were provided with criteria that each primary care trust location should receive vaccine throughout the estimated three to four week period needed to distribute the vaccine. Based on their experience of scheduling vaccine for the national childhood programme they have planned deliveries to achieve the most efficient way of getting vaccine delivered.

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects general practitioner surgeries in the south-west of the New Forest to receive supplies of the influenza vaccine. [297856]

Gillian Merron: The distribution of vaccine to support the swine flu vaccination programme across England will take around three to four weeks to complete delivery of the first supplies to all general practitioner (GP) practices. This part of the programme started on 26 October 2009. The timing of our overall delivery schedule is reliant on predicted supplies from the manufacturer.

GPs order seasonal influenza vaccine directly from the manufacturer and are responsible for managing their own stock.

In the letter of 15 October from the Chief Medical Officer to all GPs, the arrangements for checking delivery dates of swine flu vaccine were clearly identified. GPs were informed that they would be able to find out the expected day of delivery of their first supplies of swine flu vaccine by checking with their primary care trust immunisation co-ordinator or by consulting the www.immform.dh.gov.uk website themselves.

Tuberculosis: Drugs

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of drugs appropriate for the treatment of paediatric tuberculosis patients. [297331]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Medicines for the treatment of paediatric tuberculosis patients are available and we are not aware of any supply problems.

Whipps Cross Hospital

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on capital costs associated with each *(a)* development and *(b)* treatment project at Whipps Cross Hospital in the last nine years. [297494]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed as *(a)* managers, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* doctors and *(d)* other administrative staff by York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years. [297560]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table:

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in the York hospitals NHS foundation trust as at 30 September each year

			2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All NHS staff			2,528	2,651	2,890	2,890	2,672
	Of which:						
	Managers		106	106	123	35	74
		Senior managers	21	20	21	5	29
		Managers	85	86	102	30	45
	Nurses		1,245	1,335	1,327	1,344	1,290
		Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,245	1,335	1,327	1,344	1,290
		GP Practice nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Administrative and Clerical Staff		835	848	1,048	1,110	908
		Central Functions	256	237	219	291	365
		Hotel, Property and Estates	42	41	60	74	41
		Scientific, Therapeutic and Technical Staff	80	79	77	71	86

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in the York hospitals NHS foundation trust as at 30 September each year

			2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
		Clinical Support	457	491	692	674	416
	All Doctors		342	362	392	401	400
		General Practitioners	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		HCHS Doctors	342	362	392	401	400

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. General practitioners (GPs) work for primary care trusts (PCTs) which operate within strategic health authorities (SHAs), no GPs are employed directly by NHS trusts. General practice nurses are employed by the individual GP partnerships.

2. Examples of staff in central functions are staff in human resources, informatics, payroll, and library staff. Examples of staff in hotel, property and estates are clerical laundry staff, domestic services and home wardens. Examples of staff in scientific, therapeutic and technical support are clerical staff in audiology, haematology, dietetics and microbiology. Examples of staff in clinical support are clerical staff in medical records, patient services, medical secretaries.

3. Data Quality:

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on staffing costs of *(a)* managers, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* doctors and *(d)* other administrative staff at York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years. [297561]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the staffing costs of *(a)* managers and senior managers, *(b)* nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, *(c)* medical staff and *(d)* administrative and clerical staff at the York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from 2004-05 to 2006-07. The Trust was licensed as a foundation trust on 1 April 2007. The Department does not collect these data from foundation trusts.

Annual staffing costs—York hospitals NHS foundation trust

£000

	Managers and senior managers	Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	Medical staff	Admin and clerical staff
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	7,406	42,090	34,372	11,901
2005-06	7,565	38,145	29,686	11,393
2004-05	6,921	33,027	27,149	10,623

Notes:

1. The figures provided are for total expenditure on staff and will include social security costs, pension contributions and early retirement costs. Redundancy costs are not included. The figures also include staff not directly employed by the organisation, such as agency staff.

2. Information is from the financial returns of national health service bodies. The data are not audited but are validated to the audited summarisation schedules.

Source:

Financial Returns

Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the budget of the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority was in each of the last three years; [297565]

(2) what the budget of the *(a)* North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust, *(b)* South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and *(c)* York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was in each of the last three years. [297566]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the final revenue resource limit for the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA), the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT), the York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last three years for which data are available.

£000

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	735,624	735,480	663,361
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,046,199	969,396	881,661
York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	180,026
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	436,711	409,156	364,589

Notes:

1. The final revenue resource limit represents the total amount of expenditure that a PCT or SHA can incur in a financial year.

2. The figures provided for acute trusts represent total income for the year. National health service trusts do not have a revenue resource limit. In contrast to PCTs, NHS trusts are not funded directly by the Secretary of State from sums voted by Parliament, and their accounts are not consolidated into the Department's resource account. NHS trusts are semi-autonomous organisations whose income derives from the provision of services to PCTs through what might be described as trading activity.

3. The NHS trust regime has similarities to the regime for Government trading funds, where expenditure for Government activity is met from income from third parties, rather than direct funding from resources voted to the Department.

4. York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was licensed on 1 April 2007, therefore no data are provided for the 2008-09 and 2007-08 financial years. The Department does not collect data from Foundation Trusts.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules

Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed as *(a)* managers, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* doctors and *(d)* other administrative staff by Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority in each of the last five years. [297644]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority as at 30 September each year

			2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All NHS staff			684	526	540	402	379
	Of which:						
	Managers		250	246	214	237	247
		Senior managers	29	28	21	24	28
		Managers	221	218	193	213	219
	Nurses		1	2	1	2	5
		Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1	2	1	2	5
		GP Practice nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Administrative and clerical staff		414	262	320	154	121
		Central functions	413	258	314	154	121
		Hotel, property and estates	0	0	0	0	0
		Scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	0	0	1	0	0
		Clinical support	1	4	5	0	0
	All doctors		19	16	5	9	6
		General practitioners	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		HCHS Doctors	19	16	5	9	6

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Data are for the Yorkshire and Humber strategic health authority (SHA) administrative organisation and not the SHA area.
2. General practitioners (GPs) work for primary care trusts (PCTs) which operate within SHAs, no GPs are employed directly by SHAs. General practice nurses are employed by the individual GP partnerships.
3. Examples of staff in central functions are staff in human resources, informatics, payroll and library staff. Examples of staff in hotel, property and estates are clerical laundry staff, domestic services and home wardens. Examples of staff in science, therapeutic and technician support are clerical staff in audiology, haematology, dietetics and microbiology. Examples of staff in clinical support are clerical staff in medical records, patient services, medical secretaries.
4. When referring to published data, the figures for this organisation in 2007 will not match. Subsequent to the publication of the 2007 census, data for this organisation were found to be incorrect. An exercise was undertaken to obtain correct 2007 data which are shown in the table. The change at national level was not significant therefore published data were not revised.
5. *Data Quality:*

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staffing costs of *(a)* managers, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* doctors and *(d)* other administrative staff at Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority was in each of the last five years. [297559]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the staffing costs of *(a)* managers and senior managers, *(b)* nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, *(c)* medical staff and *(d)* administrative and clerical staff at the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) in each of the last five years.

Annual staffing costs—Yorkshire and the Humber SHA

£000

	Managers and senior managers	*Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Medical staff*	*Admin and clerical staff*
2008-09	16,315	0	1,665	2,225
2007-08	17,210	0	2,025	2,018
2006-07	21,163	0	2,639	2,928
2005-06	19,504	134	1,687	3,323
2004-05	18,822	85	1,596	6,865

Notes:

1. The figures provided are for total expenditure on staff and will include social security costs, pension contributions and early retirement costs. Redundancy costs are not included. The figures also include staff not directly employed by the organisation, such as agency staff.
2. Information is from the financial returns of national health service bodies. The data are not audited but are validated to the audited summarisation schedules.
3. The Yorkshire and the Humber SHA was formed in July 2006 following the merger of the North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA, West Yorkshire SHA and South Yorkshire SHA. Therefore, the figures provided for 2005-06 and 2004-05 are the sum of the three predecessor SHAs.

Source:

SHA Financial Returns.

JUSTICE

Coroner Service

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons inquests into the deaths of Scottish service personnel overseas are held by HM Coroner for Wiltshire. [297217]

Bridget Prentice: There is no provision in the Scottish legal system for coroners' inquests and fatal accident inquiries cannot be held into deaths outwith Scotland. However, we are committed to ensuring that the death of every serviceman or woman overseas is subject to an independent inquiry and therefore inquests into the deaths of Scotland-based service personnel in military operations overseas are conducted by the coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon. We recognise the burden this places on bereaved families, in having to travel to Wiltshire to attend inquests. As a result, earlier this year UK Ministers met with Scottish Ministers to ask them to agree that we should enable fatal accident inquiries to be held in Scotland into the deaths abroad of service personnel on active service, where the bereaved family is based in Scotland. The Government have subsequently amended the Coroners and Justice Bill, which is currently before Parliament, to facilitate this.

Crime

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criminal offences enacted since 1997 have never resulted in *(a)* a criminal prosecution and *(b)* a criminal conviction. [297845]

Claire Ward: At present there is no central system that routinely records the number of prosecutions and convictions for new offences created across Whitehall.

However, this information is currently being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296084]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice currently has no formal contracts for mail services. However, it has a number of local agreements with both Royal Mail and DX limited. We recognise that the absence of established contracts is not satisfactory and are in the process of completing a further competition against the Buying Solutions Postal Framework. It is expected that we will have a formal contract in place by January 2010.

Electoral Systems: Armed Forces

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1475-6W, on electoral systems: armed forces, how many of the 9,670 service personnel not eligible to vote in general elections are *(a)* under 18 years and *(b)* citizens of each country other than the UK, Commonwealth countries and the Republic of Ireland. [296825]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

There are 4,551 service personnel under the age of 18 years.

The following table, based on declared nationality, gives the number of service personnel not eligible to vote in general elections other than citizens of the UK, Commonwealth countries and the Republic of Ireland:

Nationality	*Grand total*
Afghan	1
Albanian	1
Citizen of the Central African Republic	3
Colombian	1
Foreign	4
French	1
German	7
Greek	1
Nepalese	4,143
Norwegian	1
Slovenian	1
Swazi	18
United States citizen	5
Ukrainian	2
Yugoslavian	1
No Nationality Recorded	928
Total	5,119

Legal Aid: Immigration

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what data were used by the Legal Services Commission to decide that providers of legal advice and help in London *(a)* in asylum cases should have to undertake a minimum of 70 cases a year and *(b)* in non-asylum immigration cases should have to undertake a minimum of 30 cases a year. [296860]

Bridget Prentice: In 2008 the Legal Services Commission (LSC) set out its plans for procuring Civil Legal Aid contracts in the consultation paper Civil Bid Rounds for 2010 Contracts. The paper proposed minimum contract sizes, measured by "new matter starts" (NMS). The aim was to make sure there was good access to advice, and to ensure providers gain sufficient experience in the areas of law in question to give clients a good service. This is particularly important in asylum where there is little or no private market to ensure specialist knowledge and expertise is maintained in a frequently changing legal environment.

The proposed minimum for asylum was 100 NMS and for immigration was 50 NMS. When setting minimum new matter start sizes LSC took into account the existing pattern of provision, and whether one full time fee earner could meet the contract requirement. That ensures that smaller bodies are able to bid for contracts.

There were concerns raised in consultation that minimum matter start sizes had been set too high in immigration and asylum. As a result LSC reduced the levels for both. LSC have also responded to calls for greater recognition of geographical issues by setting the minimum matter start size at 70 for asylum and 30 for immigration in London, and at 35 for asylum and 15 for immigration in areas outside London.

In London there is already a good level of access to legal representation and there is a high demand for the service. For that reason LSC have set a higher minimum matter start size in London.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations in the London procurement area received funds from the Legal Services Commission in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and for each such organisation how many (i) asylum and (ii) non-asylum immigration cases they had in which Legal Services Commission funding started in each of those years. [294661]

Bridget Prentice: The information in Table 1 shows active legal aid providers in the London procurement area for financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 delivering immigration and/or asylum work.

Table 1

	Financial year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
A C S Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
A. B. Law	Yes	Yes	No
Abiloye & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aden & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	No
Afrifa & Partners	Yes	Yes	Yes
Afro-Asian Advisory Service	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agape Solicitors	Yes	Yes	No
Aman Solicitors Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Andrews	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anthony Louca Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Antons Solicitors	Yes	No	No
Arden Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Asylum Aid	Yes	Yes	Yes
A-Z Law	Yes	Yes	Yes
Azam & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Baker Jayacodi Solicitors	Yes	No	No
Barnes Harrild & Dyer	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barnet Law Service	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bart-Williams & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Battersea Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bermondsey citizens advice bureau	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bindman & Partners	Yes	Yes	Yes
Birnberg Peirce & Partners	Yes	Yes	Yes
Blavo & Company Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brent CAB	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brent Community Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
CAB - Whitechapel	Yes	Yes	No
Camden Community Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cardinal Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Central London Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charles Allotey & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charles Annon & Co. Ltd	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charles Simmons	Yes	Yes	No
Chartwell & Sadlers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chinese Information & Advice Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chipatiso & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christian Gottfried & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christian Khan	Yes	Yes	Yes
CK Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cleveland & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chun & Co	Yes	Yes	No
Community Law Clinic Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corbin & Hassan Ltd	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crimson Phoenix Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Croydon & Sutton Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
CT Emezie Solicitors	Yes	Yes	No
Dare Emmanuel Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deighton Guedalla	Yes	Yes	Yes
Devonshires RE Lawson Turner & Gilbert	Yes	No	No
Devonshires RE Phoenix Nova Sols	Yes	No	No
Dhillon & Co. Solicitors plc	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dores Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Duncan Lewis & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Duncan Lewis (SB)	No	No	Yes
Duncan Lewis Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Edmonds Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elder Rahimi Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Enfield Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eve Wan	Yes	Yes	No
Fadiga & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Figueiredo & Bailey Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fisher Meredith	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fletcher Dervish & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Freemans	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ganta Patel & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Genga & Co. Solicitors Ltd	Yes	Yes	No
Gillman-Smith Law	Yes	Yes	Yes
Glazer Delmar	Yes	Yes	Yes
Goldkorn Mathias Gentle	Yes	Yes	No
Greenland Solicitors LLP	Yes	Yes	No
Greenwich Community Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gupta and Partners (Harlesden)	Yes	Yes	No
H C L Hanne & Co	Yes	Yes	No
H S Kang & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hackmans Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hackney Community Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hameed & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hammersmith & Fulham Community Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Haringey CAB	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harrow Solicitors & Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Havillands & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hayat & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hereward & Foster	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hersi & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hiace Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hillingdon Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hoole & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hounslow Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Howe & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ikie	Yes	No	No
Immigration Advisory Service	No	Yes	Yes
Immigration Advisory Service (Hounslow)	No	Yes	Yes
Immigration Advisory Service (London)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Irving & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
Islington Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
J D Spicer & Co	Yes	Yes	Yes
J R Jones	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kensington CAB	Yes	Yes	—
Kenwright & Lynch	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 1

		Financial year	
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Kibedi & Co.	Yes	—	—
Kingston & Richmond Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Knights Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Knox & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lambeth Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Law For All—Acton Law Shop	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawrence & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawrence Lupin Solicitors Ltd	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawson Adeloye Solicitors	Yes	No	No
LB & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leslie & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lewisham Law Centre Ltd.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leytonstone CAB	Yes	Yes	Yes
Luqmani Thompson & Partners	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mang & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marciano Khatry & Mak Solicitor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Merton Racial Equality Partnership	Yes	No	Yes
Migrants Resource Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Moss, Beachley Mullem & Coleman	Yes	No	No
Mountain Partnership Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nag & Co.	Yes	No	No
Nandy & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nathaniel & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	No
Newham CAB	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noden & Co. Immigration	Yes	Yes	No
North Kensington Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nachen	Yes	Yes	Yes
O'Keeffe Solicitors	Yes	Yes	No
Ove Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Owen White & Catlin	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oxford House in Bethnal Green	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ozvaran Turkan Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
P Kouma & Company	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paddington Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Palis Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patricks Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pearson & Winston Solicitors	Yes	Yes	No
Perera & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pinidiya Solicitors LLP	Yes	Yes	Yes
Polpitiya & Co. Ltd.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Powell & Co.	Yes	No	No
Powell Spencer and Partners	Yes	Yes	No
Popkin & Co. Solicitors	Yes	No	Yes
Rahman & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Raja & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ratna & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Refugee Legal Centre (London Region)[1]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rita Simons & Co.	Yes	No	No
S C Pelendrides & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
S J Solicitors	Yes	No	No
S S Basi & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saffin & Co.	Yes	Yes	No
Sam & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Samars Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Samuel & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sandev & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scott-Moncrieff Harbour & Sinclair	Yes	Yes	No
Scudamores Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shahid Rahman	Yes	No	No
Shan & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sharma & Co. Solicitors	Yes	Yes	No
Sheikh & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sheikh & Co. Solicitors Ltd.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shergill & Co.	Yes	Yes	No
Simman Solicitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Simply Legal Solicitors	No	No	Yes
Southwark Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southwark Race & Equalities Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spence & Horne	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sriharans	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stanley and Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sutovic & Hartigan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) UK	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tayo Arowojolu Solicitors	Yes	No	No
Terrence Higgins Trust Advice Centre (FAO Jean Foreman)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thakrar & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thamesmead Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Theva & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thompson & Co.	Yes	Yes	No
Tower Hamlets East CAB	No	No	Yes
Tower Hamlets Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trivedy & Virdi	Yes	No	No
Trott & Gentry	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vahib & Co.	Yes	No	No
Walthamstow CAB	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wandsworth & Merton Law Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waran & Company	Yes	Yes	Yes
Warnapala & Co. Ltd.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Westminster Citizens Advice	Yes	Yes	Yes
White Ryland	Yes	Yes	No
Wick & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wilson & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wilson Houlder & Co.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yanakas Votsis Associates	Yes	Yes	Yes
YVA Solicitors	No	No	Yes
Zelin & Zelin	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ziadies	Yes	Yes	Yes

[1] The Refugee Legal Centre (London Region) is now known as Refugee & Migrant Justice.

Table 2 shows immigration and asylum cases started in financial year 2008-09. To protect commercial interests of the providers involved, the table has been anonymised and is not reflective of order in Table 1 above.

Table 2

	2006-07		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
	Asylum NMS	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*
Firm 1	1,176	92	1,523	177	2,825	677
Firm 2	1,026	402	1,044	358	1,770	388
Firm 3	485	2,073	1,075	3,093	1,337	4.281

Table 2

	2006-07		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
	Asylum NMS	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*
Firm 4	1,202	1,668	1,320	1,575	1,294	1,675
Firm 5	1,994	122	902	76	1,085	157
Firm 6	211	514	277	486	907	700
Firm 7	980	150	840	100	865	25
Firm 8	317	66	423	45	722	84
Firm 9	657	1,413	282	293	670	8
Firm 10	331	916	334	709	582	766
Firm 11	230	229	579	367	505	284
Firm 12	525	120	354	90	442	95
Firm 13	525	641	386	406	436	529
Firm 14	385	182	271	165	421	138
Firm 15	284	160	435	145	370	142
Firm 16	290	46	245	73	366	83
Firm 17	281	105	261	67	357	111
Firm 18	462	354	359	363	333	214
Firm 19	172	251	183	211	284	154
Firm 20	277	55	291	74	282	104
Firm 21	224	101	176	114	277	79
Firm 22	11	153	34	26	270	165
Firm 23	97	115	102	85	267	162
Firm 24	104	963	66	1,017	221	1,152
Firm 25	141	149	195	91	209	137
Firm 26	128	30	46	12	206	12
Firm 27	134	328	228	379	203	471
Firm 28	177	76	157	90	203	86
Firm 29	114	127	126	58	197	58
Firm 30	115	80	137	33	185	56
Firm 31	114	306	147	325	178	356
Firm 32	527	9	257	0	177	62
Firm 33	82	139	96	150	171	148
Firm 34	119	62	54	38	158	73
Firm 35	348	324	350	309	156	360
Firm 36	188	138	273	184	154	111
Firm 37	121	37	87	21	151	35
Firm 38	77	19	72	43	148	78
Firm 39	128	170	18	114	138	270
Firm 40	48	108	60	119	136	206
Firm 41	388	28	87	22	135	40
Firm 42	88	172	87	166	133	179
Firm 43	0	0	0	0	131	1
Firm 44	118	100	101	60	125	71
Firm 45	168	25	93	9	123	3
Firm 46	151	1	154	0	120	0
Firm 47	75	136	42	70	116	120
Firm 48	141	193	96	126	115	128
Firm 49	32	68	63	80	110	65
Firm 50	112	15	34	1	105	7
Firm 51	75	82	107	124	102	144
Firm 52	75	107	75	100	95	107
Firm 53	53	68	55	82	95	90
Firm 54	129	75	98	76	92	63
Firm 55	58	17	49	9	87	16
Firm 56	79	19	91	22	80	16
Firm 57	60	19	42	9	79	0
Firm 58	18	118	5	49	77	77
Firm 59	57	67	46	61	73	46
Firm 60	15	3	17	4	74	43
Firm 61	276	95	136	69	73	112
Firm 62	61	470	14	320	72	396
Firm 63	51	47	51	19	71	29
Firm 64	163	61	88	57	68	69
Firm 65	58	7	43	5	68	9
Firm 66	0	0	0	0	66	317
Firm 67	181	39	76	28	64	17

Table 2

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Asylum NMS	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*
Firm 68	24	176	30	108	63	195
Firm 69	57	51	46	47	61	62
Firm 70	75	8	78	34	59	34
Firm 71	23	53	5	2	59	4
Firm 72	25	40	32	44	53	29
Firm 73	37	38	27	28	53	10
Firm 74	57	140	44	89	52	191
Firm 75	108	24	36	18	52	19
Firm 76	76	151	65	130	50	112
Firm 77	32	131	40	103	50	149
Firm 78	49	136	16	132	50	191
Firm 79	17	34	9	24	50	58
Firm 80	23	18	23	10	48	10
Firm 81	25	65	54	81	47	70
Firm 82	60	35	34	20	47	31
Firm 83	54	86	35	84	45	119
Firm 84	17	101	76	88	44	93
Firm 85	95	61	63	137	43	176
Firm 86	32	20	26	13	43	21
Firm 87	48	43	56	42	42	26
Firm 88	37	24	27	16	41	11
Firm 89	105	405	52	360	37	329
Firm 90	10	49	22	71	36	86
Firm 91	66	52	31	42	35	42
Firm 92	22	56	19	36	31	68
Firm 93	19	54	12	28	31	84
Firm 94	35	110	30	55	30	7
Firm 95	30	230	101	180	29	51
Firm 96	20	126	17	142	29	93
Firm 97	39	138	35	90	28	79
Firm 98	17	125	11	73	27	84
Firm 99	15	87	18	47	26	84
Firm 100	12	32	4	15	26	19
Firm 101	38	38	25	56	24	39
Firm 102	8	17	4	18	23	32
Firm 103	10	240	54	218	22	224
Firm 104	117	0	97	34	17	18
Firm 105	13	51	16	41	17	30
Firm 106	19	83	13	57	16	96
Firm 107	19	64	16	6	15	55
Firm 108	6	55	5	36	15	19
Firm 109	3	144	2	216	15	327
Firm 110	0	0	0	0	15	0
Firm 111	42	619	90	545	13	505
Firm 112	7	113	0	80	13	229
Firm 113	28	48	21	35	12	26
Firm 114	7	78	8	54	11	72
Firm 115	9	113	10	117	10	105
Firm 116	16	1	16	1	9	0
Firm 117	16	8	7	1	9	3
Firm 118	6	100	6	81	9	82
Firm 119	12	130	3	128	9	138
Firm 120	5	19	23	26	8	20
Firm 121	34	98	14	17	8	18
Firm 122	24	92	11	37	8	78
Firm 123	17	36	6	19	8	3
Firm 124	4	31	4	17	8	9
Firm 125	33	91	20	77	7	40
Firm 126	4	16	6	8	7	13
Firm 127	12	100	6	69	6	38
Firm 128	2	1	0	1	6	8
Firm 129	37	75	16	45	5	91
Firm 130	4	235	8	177	5	271
Firm 131	17	90	8	50	4	71

Table 2

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Asylum NMS	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*
Firm 132	8	1	5	1	4	0
Firm 133	7	49	10	34	3	84
Firm 134	3	230	3	301	3	265
Firm 135	34	110	15	25	2	11
Firm 136	22	59	9	16	2	50
Firm 137	3	31	4	13	2	0
Firm 138	34	144	7	81	1	58
Firm 139	24	16	3	10	1	28
Firm 140	0	46	3	58	1	135
Firm 141	1	159	0	128	1	163
Firm 142	721	1,611	449	402	0	0
Firm 143	181	82	89	25	0	0
Firm 144	379	145	82	14	0	0
Firm 145	112	88	73	65	0	0
Firm 146	202	3	55	5	0	0
Firm 147	58	60	26	66	0	2
Firm 148	80	0	24	0	0	0
Firm 149	47	205	21	85	0	48
Firm 150	29	58	8	25	0	0
Firm 151	16	31	4	7	0	0
Firm 152	11	30	4	4	0	0
Firm 153	9	60	4	19	0	0
Firm 154	3	1	2	0	0	1
Firm 155	24	34	1	12	0	0
Firm 156	2	21	1	6	0	11
Firm 157	208	140	0	156	0	0
Firm 158	40	16	0	0	0	0
Firm 159	31	64	0	0	0	0
Firm 160	25	30	0	0	0	0
Firm 161	24	9	0	0	0	0
Firm 162	23	34	0	1	0	0
Firm 163	18	6	0	0	0	0
Firm 164	17	38	0	0	0	0
Firm 165	14	12	0	0	0	0
Firm 166	13	7	0	0	0	0
Firm 167	10	26	0	0	0	0
Firm 168	7	28	0	0	0	0
Firm 169	6	47	0	0	0	0
Firm 170	5	13	0	0	0	0
Firm 171	3	6	0	1	0	0
Firm 172	2	12	0	0	0	0
Firm 173	1	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 174	1	10	0	0	0	0
Firm 175	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 176	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 177	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 178	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 179	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 180	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 181	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 182	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 183	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 184	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 185	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 186	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 187	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 188	0	42	0	0	0	0
Firm 189	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 190	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 191	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 192	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 193	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 194	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 195	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Asylum NMS	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*	*Asylum NMS*	*Immigration NMS*
Firm 196	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 197	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 198	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firm 199	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	21,893	24,070	18,402	19,847	24,002	23,001

Notes:
1. Though anonymised, the data read across the years for each firm.
2. The offices of the Immigration Advisory Service and the Refugee Legal Centre (London Region) have been summed together into one entry each.
3. NMS (new matter starts) figures are the number of new matters reported at the end of the relevant financial year.
4. Some firms reported zero NMS though they held a contract in these categories of law.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates courts have been closed in each criminal justice area in each year since 1997. [295992]

Mr. Straw: The following table provides details of the magistrates court closures (broken down into HMCS Criminal Justice Areas) which have taken place since 1997. Officials estimate that 240 magistrates courts were closed from 1979-97 and 124 from 1997 to date.

Magistrates courts closed since 1997 and their HMCS criminal justice area

	Courthouse closed	*Criminal justice area*
1997	Ellesmere Port	Cheshire and Merseyside
1997	Hampstead	London North and West
1997	Marylebone	London Central and South
1997	Otley	North and West Yorkshire
1997	Stokeley	North and West Yorkshire
1997	Thorne	Humber and South Yorkshire
1997	Hebburn	Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria
1997	Seaham	Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria
1997	South Shields (Kepple Street)	Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria
1997	Bromsgrove	Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia
1997	Ledbury	Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia
1997	Chippenham (Market Place)	Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
1997	Ashton under Lyne (Manchester Road)	Cumbria and Lancashire
1997	Duckinsfield	Cumbria and Lancashire
1997	Braintree	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
1997	Clacton on Sea	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
1997	Pontardawe	South East Wales
1997	Bargoed	South East Wales
1997	Monmouth	South East Wales
1997	Pontlttyn	South East Wales
1997	Pontypool	South East Wales
1998	Malton	North and West Yorkshire
1998	Ripon	North and West Yorkshire
1998	Marlborough Street	London Central and South
1998	Clerkenwell	London North and West
1998	Saffron Walden	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
1998	Bishop's Stortford	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
1998	Hatfield	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
1998	Hitchin	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
1998	Market Rasen	Leicestershire, Lincoln and Northamptonshire
1998	Lutterworth	Leicestershire, Lincoln and Northamptonshire
1998	Chertsey	Surrey and Sussex
1998	Farnham	Surrey and Sussex
1998	Oxted	Surrey and Sussex
1998	Sheerness	Kent
1998	West Malling	Kent
1998	Barnard Castle	Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria
1998	Lytham	Cumbria and Lancashire
1998	Corwen	North Wales
1998	Diss	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
1998	Felixstowe	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
1998	Haverhill	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
1998	Saxmundam	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk

Magistrates courts closed since 1997 and their HMCS criminal justice area

	Courthouse closed	*Criminal justice area*
1998	Stowmarket	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
1998	Newmarket	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
1998	March	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
1999	Christchurch	Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
1999	Stow on the Wold	Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
1999	Abingdon	Thames Valley
1999	Henley on Thames	Thames Valley
1999	Windsor	Thames Valley
1999	Morley	North and West Yorkshire
1999	Pudsey	North and West Yorkshire
2000	Ampthill	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
2000	Biggleswade	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
2000	Dunstable	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
2000	Leighton Buzzard	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
2000	Lichfield	Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia
2000	Keighley	North and West Yorkshire
2000	Keswick	Cumbria and Lancashire
2000	Windermere	Cumbria and Lancashire
2000	Wigton	Cumbria and Lancashire
2000	Appleby	Cumbria and Lancashire
2000	Gravesend	Kent
2000	Wootton Bassett	Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
2000	Abergele	North Wales
2001	Alfreton	Nottingham and Derbyshire
2001	Ashbourne	Nottingham and Derbyshire
2001	Bakewell	Nottingham and Derbyshire
2001	Matlock	Nottingham and Derbyshire
2001	Middleton	Nottingham and Derbyshire
2001	Leigh	Greater Manchester
2001	Wombourne	Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia
2001	Leek	Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia
2001	Worcester	Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia.
2001	Warrington Patten Hall	Cheshire and Merseyside
2001	Macclesfield Park Green	Cheshire and Merseyside
2001	Bideford	Devon and Cornwall
2001	Exmouth	Devon and Cornwall
2001	Kingsbridge	Devon and Cornwall
2001	South Molton	Devon and Cornwall
2001	Teignmouth	Devon and Cornwall
2001	Tavistock	Devon and Cornwall
2001	Axminster	Devon and Cornwall
2001	Tiverton	Devon and Cornwall
2001	Newquay	Devon and Cornwall
2001	Southampton (Commercial Road)	Hampshire and Isle of Wight
2001	Gillingham	Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
2001	Bridlington	Humber and South Yorkshire
2001	Brough	Humber and South Yorkshire
2001	Driffield	Humber and South Yorkshire
2001	Hull (Guildhall)	Humber and South Yorkshire
2001	Hull (Lowgate)	Humber and South Yorkshire
2001	Pocklington	Humber and South Yorkshire
2001	Withensea	Humber and South Yorkshire
2001	Arundel	Surrey and Sussex
2002	Bridgnorth	Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia
2002	Leominster	Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia
2002	Evesham	Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia
2002	Fakenham	Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk
2002	Tunbridge Wells	Kent
2002	Beaconsfield	Thames Valley
2002	Buckingham	Thames Valley

Magistrates courts closed since 1997 and their HMCS criminal justice area

	Courthouse closed	*Criminal justice area*
2003	Thame	Thames Valley
2003	Droitwitch	Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia
2003	Rugeley	Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia
2003	Whitchurch	Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire
2003	Machynlleth	North Wales
2003	Lampeter	Mid and West Wales
2003	Tenby	Mid and West Wales
2003	Camberley	Surrey and Sussex
2003	Trowbridge	Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
2003	Chester Le Street	Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria
2003	Long Sutton	Leicestershire, Lincoln and Northamptonshire
2003	Caistor	Leicestershire, Lincoln and Northamptonshire
2003	Horncastle	Leicestershire, Lincoln and Northamptonshire
2004	Richmond	North and West Yorkshire
2004	Stourbridge	Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Coventry
2005	—	—
2006	Bow Street	London Central and South
2007	Flax Bourton	Avon and Somerset
2007	Marylebone	London Central and South
2008	Aldridge	Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia
2008	Pickering	North and West Yorkshire
2009	Devizes	Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

Note:
Since the creation of HMCS in 2005 the number of HMCS criminal justice areas has reduced from the original 42. The above table should enable the reader to identify the relevant county relating to the closure.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1373W, on magistrates courts: closures, how many magistrates courts there were in each type of area in each year since 1997. [295941]

Mr. Straw: Up until 1 April 2005, magistrates courts were the responsibility of locally managed magistrates courts committees who were statutorily independent. My Department does not hold information on the number of magistrates courts prior to 2005, as they were not required by statute to inform the Department of closures that were not subject to an appeal under section 56(3) of the Justices of the Peace Act 1997 (now repealed).

Research suggests that there were in the region of 650 magistrates courts in the late 1970s. Between 1979 and 1997 an estimated 171 magistrates courts were closed: from 1997, an estimated 125 magistrates courts have been closed. Estimates of the number of magistrates courts in operation since 1997 are included in the following table:

	Number
1997	479
1998	458
1999	433
2000	426
2001	413
2002	383
2003	376
2004	363
2005	361
2006	361
2007	360
2008	358
2009 to date	355

Members: Correspondence

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley of *(a)* 3 June and 17 July 2009 on second opinions in the Family Division and *(b)* 30 June and 14 August 2009 on compensation for false imprisonment. [297158]

Claire Ward: I replied to the hon. Member's letters of 30 June and 14 August on 21 October. I apologise for the delay. My hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) replied to the hon. Member's letters of 3 June and 17 July during August.

Offenders: Electronic Tagging

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have been electronically tagged in each year since electronic monitoring began; and if he will make a statement. [297341]

Mr. Straw: Information is collected on the number of electronic tagging orders made rather than the number of offenders tagged. The following table details the number of orders made since the electronic monitoring service began in 1999.

Financial year	*Number of orders*
1998-99	3,452
1999-2000	19,012
2000-01	19,947
2001-02	21,488
2002-03	35,186
2003-04	41,811
2004-05	46,987
2005-06	51,396
2006-07	54,877
2007-08	65,099
2008-09	69,895
April 2009—September 2009	34,574

About 18,800 subjects are being electronically monitored at any one time, of which 25 per cent. are on bail, 58 per cent. on a court-ordered community sentence, and the remaining 17 per cent. on release from prison on licence.

Since 1999, over 550,000 people have been monitored on a range of electronic monitoring programmes, in the vast majority of cases without incident.

Penalty Notices for Disorder

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of penalty notices for disorder were issued *(a)* in police custody and *(b)* on the street in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [297584]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) in a police station and on the street, in England and Wales, 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

PNDs were introduced under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 to provide the police with a simple financial punishment to deal with minor antisocial and nuisance offending either at a police station or on the street. Operational guidance to forces issued by the Secretary of State for Justice sets out the criteria which should be considered by officers in deciding where to issue a PND.

Number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) in a police station and on the street in England and Wales, 2007[1]

	Police station	*Street*
PND issued	115,939	91,605
Percentage	56	44

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source: OCJR E&A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice.

Prison Service: Counselling

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much has been spent on the Prison Service's Counselling Assessment Referral Advice and Throughcare scheme since its inception; [297365]

(2) what evaluation of the Prison Service's Counselling Assessment Referral Advice and Throughcare scheme has been undertaken. [297366]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has kept figures on the total budget allocation for Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare services (CARATs) since it was established in 1999. These are set out in the following table.

	Total (£ million)
1999-2000	5.5
2000-01	8.8
2001-02	12.9
2002-03	14.3
2003-04	17.4
2004-05	22.3
2005-06	[1]26.8
2006-07	[1]30.3
2007-08	[1]32.1

[1] This includes NOMS funding for the integrated drug treatment system

CARATs is based on good practice and industry guidelines (such as the National Treatment Agency's Models of Care) which are evidenced as effective in a community setting.

A comprehensive CARATs review was conducted in 2003 which involved participation of over 500 stakeholders. The review was concluded in 2005 resulting in a new service specification, new CARATs casework file and the production of a CARATs Practice Manual.

A further review of the CARATs service is planned which will examine the current delivery of the CARAT service.

Prisoners Release

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report,* column 2266W, on prisons: manpower, how many prisoners released on licence and subsequently recalled to prison since 1997 remain at large. [295886]

Mr. Straw: Of the prisoners released on licence and subsequently recalled to prison between 1 January 1997 and 30 June 2009, a total of 741 had not been returned to custody as at 16 October 2009.

This figure is based on the data in table 1 of an information release published on 30 October 2009 and available on the Ministry of Justice website under "Licence recalls and returns to custody: audit of licence revocation—Ministry of Justice":

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the introduction of *(a)* risk assessments and *(b)* accommodation checks prior to release for offenders to be released under the End of Custody Licence Scheme. [296340]

Mr. Straw: Assessment of risk on release is embedded in the 14 categories of offence or offender which excludes a prisoner from eligibility for ECL. Those include serious violent offences, registered sex offenders and prisoners without a release address. Full details of the scheme including advice on risk is given in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 a copy of which is available in the Libraries of the House and on the following website:

http://psi.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/
PSI_2007_42_end_of_custody_licence.doc

Prisons are instructed that they should take appropriate action in response to any information they have received that a prisoner poses a risk of domestic violence or to a specific victim on release. That information should be provided to the police and, where appropriate, submitted to the Multi Agency Pubic Protection Panel, in line with routine risk management arrangements.

Prison governors will not release those prisoners who will be subject to supervision on release to an address prohibited by their offender manager in the supervision licence. In such cases ECL release will only take place if a suitable alternative address is provided. Where prisoners are subject to supervision on release, any conditions included on the normal supervision licence must also be included on the ECL licence.

There are no current plans to make any changes to the scheme. When prison population concerns allow, the scheme will be ended.

Probation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effect on the completion rate for court orders of proposed reductions in the budget for the Probation Service. [297167]

Maria Eagle: The trend on completion rates for court orders is improving. The performance for the financial year 2008-09 was 71 per cent. successful completion and from April to September 2009 the rate is currently 74 per cent.

The budget settlement for 2010-11 is likely to maintain this upward trend. The settlement was recently announced via a written ministerial statement, indicating a £26 million increase for probation above the original indicative budget.

Nevertheless probation areas/trusts, like other parts of the criminal justice system, are introducing efficiency savings to maximise the value for money that they provide. These efficiency savings are focused on reducing back office functions and management overheads and should not reduce resources for front-line delivery. As such, the budget settlement will not impact negatively on the completion rate for court orders.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Tier 4 offenders are under supervision by unqualified probation officers. [297266]

Maria Eagle: Offenders classified as tier 4 present the highest risks of harm and likelihood of re-offending and therefore require a high level of probation expertise and resource. National guidance on tiering (Probation Circular 65/2005 and 8/2008) makes it clear that staff must be trained and competent for the roles they discharge but does not prescribe that tier 4 cases must be managed by a particular grade of staff or that staff should hold a particular qualification. Information about the management of individual cases is held locally by individual probation areas and trusts.

Young Offenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many disposals of each type were given to 10 to 12 year-olds convicted of *(a)* a violent criminal offence and *(b)* a non-violent criminal offence in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [296962]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the disposals given to those between the ages of 10 and 12 years-old at the point of sentence, from 1997-2007. The data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Number of disposals of each type given to 10 to 12 year-olds, for violent and non-violent indictable offences, from 1997 to 2007

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Violent offences[1]	Absolute discharge	0	1	1	0	2	3	7	5	8	5	6
	Conditional discharge	59	61	89	42	47	13	10	9	5	4	3
	Fine	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Community sentence	89	100	112	161	209	274	270	285	255	254	290
	Immediate custody	6	3	5	6	24	12	9	12	9	5	6
	Otherwise dealt with	2	5	4	8	18	14	6	5	3	6	5
	Total	157	171	212	217	301	317	302	316	260	274	310
Non-violent offences	Absolute discharge	9	15	11	15	18	55	78	69	61	43	53
	Conditional discharge	519	798	809	574	317	113	80	71	60	56	59
	Fine	40	54	79	76	76	34	11	18	14	10	10
	Community sentence	364	452	642	794	1,027	1.199	1,099	1.130	1,142	1,010	1,108
	Immediate custody	6	8	14	38	38	21	13	18	15	8	10
	Otherwise dealt with	11	22	75	63	108	43	37	12	14	19	8

Number of disposals of each type given to 10 to 12 year-olds, for violent and non-violent indictable offences, from 1997 to 2007

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Total	949	1,349	1,630	1,560	1,584	1,465	1,318	1,318	1,306	1,146	1,248

[1] Included within Violent offences are: Violence against the person, Sexual offences and Robbery. Included in non violent offences are all other indictable offences. Summary offences are not included as they comprise both violent and non-violent offences that cannot be separated.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Young Offenders: Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours per day on average a young offender spent *(a)* in cells, *(b)* undergoing education and training and *(c)* in free association in the latest period for which figures are available. [295934]

Maria Eagle: In 2008-09 in young offender institution (YOI) and juvenile establishments, an average of 15.5 hours per weekday was spent in cells per prisoner per day including sleeping time. An average of 1.79 hours per day was spent in education and training, with a further 0.71 hours spent on physical education activities both educational and recreational. An average of 2.57 hours per day was spent in free association. The remaining 3.43 hours can be spent on other activities such as chapel visits, work, offending behaviour programmes or sentence planning activities which would be considered purposeful and are therefore recorded. Prisoners may take part in various other activities which are not defined as purposeful under the purposeful activity criteria and are therefore not recorded.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours a week were spent by prisoners at Reading Young Offender Institution on *(a)* education and training, *(b)* exercise and *(c)* free association in the latest period for which figures are available. [295937]

Maria Eagle: An average of 4.89 hours per week was spent on education and training at HMP Reading in 2008-09, an average of 3.85 hours per week was spent on exercise at HMP Reading in 2008-09 and an average of 18.81 hours per week was spent on free association in 2008-09.

Young People: Remand in Custody

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which local authorities have placed children in secure training centres on remand in each month in the last two years. [296966]

Maria Eagle: The decision as to whether to remand a young person under 18 to custody is entirely for the courts. The following tables set out the number of occasions on which young people have been remanded into secure training centres from each Youth Offending Team between September 2007 and August 2009. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board and are drawn from administrative computer systems and as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. The data are given by Youth Offending Team, rather then local authority, as data are not recorded by local authority.

	2007				2008							
Youth offending team	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Barnsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Birmingham	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bolton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth and Poole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bradford	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Brent	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bristol	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

	2007				2008							
Youth offending team	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
Bromley	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bury	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Calderdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy and Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coventry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Croydon	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darlington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derby	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Devon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dudley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Enfield	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Flintshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gwynedd Mon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Halton and Warrington	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Haringey	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Harrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hartlepool	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Havering	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	[illegible]	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hillingdon	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hounslow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Islington	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Kingston-upon-Hull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston-upon-Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kirklees	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knowsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leeds	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Leicester City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leicestershire	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lewisham	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Luton	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2007				2008							
Youth offending team	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
Manchester	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Medway	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merton	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Milton Keynes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Newham	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Newport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
North Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Tyneside	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Northamptonshire	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nottingham	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Oldham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plymouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Redbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Richmond-upon-Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Sandwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sefton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solihull	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Tees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1
St. Helens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stockport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Surrey	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swindon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tameside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torbay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets and City of London	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1

	2007				2008							
Youth offending team	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
Trafford	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walsall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Wandsworth	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Wessex	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	0
West Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westminster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Wigan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wirral	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Wrexham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	16	14	21	21	29	30	20	12	10	17	29	35

	2008				2009							
Youth offending team	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Barnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnsley	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bath and North E[illegible] Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Birmingham	0	1	3	0	2	2	1	2	3	3	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bolton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth and Poole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bradford	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Brent	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Brighton and Hove	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bromley	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bury	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Calderdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Conwy and Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Coventry	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	1
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2008				2009							
Youth offending team	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
Darlington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derby	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Devon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dudley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Ealing	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Enfield	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Greenwich	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gwynedd Mon	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Halton and Warrington	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Haringey	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Harrow	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Hartlepool	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Havering	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Hounslow	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Islington	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	1	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	1
Kingston upon Hull	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
Kirklees	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Knowsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Lambeth	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Lancashire	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Leeds	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Leicester City	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Lewisham	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Liverpool	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Luton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0
Medway	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Newham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Newport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
North Lincolnshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
North Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

	2008				2009							
Youth offending team	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Northumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottingham	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Oldham	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Oxfordshire	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Plymouth	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Redbridge	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richmond-upon-Thames	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Salford	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Sandwell	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0
Sefton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solihull	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Tees	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwark	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
St. Helens	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stockport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sunderland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Surrey	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swindon	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tameside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torbay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets and City of London	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trafford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walsall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Wandsworth	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Warwickshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wessex	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	2
West Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Westminster	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wigan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2008				2009							
Youth offending team	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
Wirral	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24	37	29	17	38	30	32	27	37	40	34	29

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission, what the pay gaps were on the latest date for which figures are available. [296805]

Maria Eagle: As at 30 October 2009, pay gap figures for the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are as follows:

	Percentage
Gender	3.04
Ethnic minority	9.66
Disability	8.90

The figures take into account significant changes at the EHRC since November 2008 including the transfer of individuals under TUPE from SITEL into the commission, harmonisation of pay and grading structures and the reorganisation of its helpline.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many former relevant children as defined in his Department's guidance on Children (Leaving Care) there are in each local authority in England and Wales. [295832]

Dawn Primarolo: A "former relevant child" is a young person aged 18+ (i.e. legally adult) who was either a looked after child before reaching legal adulthood or a child who had left care after the age of 16 but before the age of 18, who would be entitled to continuing leaving care support from their responsible local authority.

Information on the number of former relevant care leavers for England only can be found in the statistical first release titled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table LAG1 shows the number of looked after children now aged 19 years old and who were looked after on 1 April 2005 then aged 17 years old (in their 17th year) by local authority. This table can be found in the excel link titled (3rd set of additional tables).

Statistics on Children Looked After in Wales are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government. Data for the period up to the end of March 2009 were released on 26 August 2009 and can be found at the following link:

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2009/hdw200908262/?lang=en

Table 7 shows a time series for the number of care leavers on their 19th birthday.

The following link is to the Statistical First Release "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2009":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000878/index.shtml

Table LAG1 for the year ending 31 March 2009 will be available by the end of this year.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1404-05W, on children: social services, when Ofsted expects to have received the remaining serious case reviews. [295505]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted has now received 21 serious case reviews relating to child deaths cited in the report "Learning Lessons, taking action: Year 2", which covered the period April 2008 to April 2009. These relate to 27 children.

Ofsted is awaiting three serious case reviews relating to child deaths cited in the report and two of these are likely to be submitted to Ofsted imminently. The third is due to be completed by 31 December 2009 and is therefore expected in January 2010. Each of these relates to one child.

Seven Local Safeguarding Children Boards informed Ofsted that a decision had been made not to conduct a serious case review in relation to child deaths cited in the report. Each of these related to one child. One further Local Safeguarding Children Board is still awaiting the final results of the post mortem in order to consider whether the criteria for instigating a serious case review are met. This case also relates to one child.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in post-16 education in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough City Council area are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [297788]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Peterborough with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Faith Schools: Islam

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his policy to encourage the establishment of Muslim *(a)* day and *(b)* boarding schools; and if he will make a statement. [297873]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government are committed to a diverse system of schools driven by, and responsive to, parental needs and aspirations but decisions on the establishment of individual maintained schools are taken locally under established decision making arrangements with no direct role for Ministers in individual cases.

Similarly, local demand will dictate whether there is a need for an independent school and provided it can meet the regulatory standards required for entry on to the register of independent schools, an independent school can be established to meet parental needs.

We highly value the contribution that all maintained faith schools make to education in the maintained sector but do not distinguish between different faiths. The Government will accordingly continue to support the establishment of new schools including faith schools in the maintained sector where the local decision making process shows that is what parents and the local community want and where the school is willing and able to comply with the requirements on all maintained schools. However, we do not have any centrally driven targets for the establishment of new faith schools of any type.

Schools: Playing Fields

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools do not have playing fields of an area of over 0.4 hectares on their premises. [297909]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold estimates of the numbers of schools that do not have their own playing fields, this is a matter for local authorities.

Schools are required to have access to team game playing fields proportionate to their pupil numbers and type.

School playing fields are protected by Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Sure Start Programme

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on increasing the number of Sure Start children's centres. [297950]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no recent representations about increasing the number of Sure Start Children's Centres.

Local authorities are responsible for rolling out Sure Start Children's Centre programmes in their areas so that by March 2010 there are at least 3,500 centres, one for every community. We are on track to achieve this target.

Local authorities determine changes in their portfolio of Sure Start Children's Centres in discussion with Together for Children (TfC), the Government's delivery partner supporting the rollout of children's centres.

Young People: Social Services

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average *(a)* pay and *(b)* pay-related costs of employing a detached youth social worker were in the latest period for which figures are available; [297841]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost of training a detached youth social worker in the latest 12-month period for which figures are available; [297842]

(3) what the average cost of recruiting a detached youth social worker was in the latest 12-month period for which figures are available; [297843]

(4) what the average *(a)* starting salary and *(b)* salary of a detached youth social worker was in the latest 12-month period for which figures are available. [297844]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect any specific information on the pay and pay-related costs, training costs, recruitment and salary levels of "detached youth social workers".

However, the 2008 Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth and Community Workers, Pay and Workforce Survey shows that youth support workers with NVQs and VRQs at Levels 2 and 3 will normally work in posts with a starting salary of around £15,000, whilst professional youth worker posts command a starting salary of around £22,000. Posts with more responsibility have salaries ranging from £27,000 to £34,000. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) shows that in 2008, the gross annual pay of all full-time youth workers averaged £24,219 p.a.

CABINET OFFICE

Death

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributed to *(a)* horse riding and *(b)* ecstasy were recorded in the last 10 years. [297922]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributed to (a) horse riding and (b) ecstasy were recorded in the last 10 years. (297922)

Table 1 below provides (a) the number of deaths where the underlying cause was an accident to a rider of an animal or an occupant of an animal-drawn vehicle, in England and Wales, for the years 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Information on the cause of death recorded at death registration by a medical practitioner or coroner is coded using the World Health Organization International Classification of Diseases (Ninth Revision for the years 1999 to 2000, and Tenth Revision from 2001 onwards). Although there are ICD codes to identify deaths where the underlying cause was an accident to a rider of an animal or an occupant of an animal-drawn vehicle, these codes are not specific to the type of animal involved in the accident. It is therefore not possible to say definitively that all deaths presented in Table 1 were related to horse riding.

Table 2 below provides (b) the number of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning, and ecstasy was mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or together with other substances, in England and Wales, for the years 1999 to 2008.

ONS figures on drug-related deaths identify all substances that were mentioned on the death record. Where more than one substance was mentioned, it is not possible to state which of them was primarily responsible for the death.

Table 1: Number of deaths where the underlying cause was an accident to a rider of an animal or an occupant of an animal-drawn vehicle, England and Wales, 1999-2008[1, 2, 3]

	Deaths (persons)
1999	10
2000	19
2001	15
2002	19
2003	20
2004	24
2005	19
2006	11
2007	9
2008	12

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E827 and E828 for the years 1999 and 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code V80 for the years 2001-2008.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths where drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death, and ecstasy was mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or together with other substances, England and Wales, 1999-2008[1, 2, 3]

		Deaths (persons)
	Ecstasy mentioned alone	*Ecstasy mentioned with other substances*
1999	6	21
2000	10	28
2001	20	55
2002	24	56
2003	29	50
2004	28	43
2005	33	58
2006	27	48
2007	28	47
2008	13	44

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1999-2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for the years 2001-2008. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are shown in Box 1 below), and where ecstasy was mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or together with other substances.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes used to define drug-related poisoning deaths by underlying cause

Description	*ICD-9*	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	292, 304, 305.2-305.9	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E850-E858	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E950.0-E950.5	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E962.0	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	E980.0-E980-5	Y10-Y14

Death: Prostate Cancer

Damian Green: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of mortality from prostate cancer was in Ashford constituency in each of the last five years. [297609]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the level of mortality from prostate cancer was in Ashford constituency in each of the last five years. (297609)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, in Ashford parliamentary constituency, for the years 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, Ashford parliamentary constituency, 2004-2008[1, 2, 3]

	Males
2004	19
2005	18
2006	19
2007	27
2008	17

[1] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Hakluyt

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contacts her Department has had with Hakluyt and Co. Ltd. since 1 January 2009. [296746]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average length of time was for which claimants resident in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [297825]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average length of time was for which claimants resident in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. (297825)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and the count date in each reference month. Table 1 shows the median length of live claims during the last 12 months up to the latest available period in September 2009, and for September of each of the last five years.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Median length of claims of Jobseeker's Allowance of persons[1] resident in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency

	Median length of claim (months)
September 2004	10.1
September 2005	10.9
September 2006	10.9
September 2007	9.4
September 2008	8.2
October 2008	8.0
November 2008	8.2
December 2008	8.6
January 2009	9.1
February 2009	9.0
March 2009	9.7
April 2009	10.6
May 2009	11.4
June 2009	12.0
July 2009	12.1
August 2009	12.2
September 2009	12.5

[1]. Length of claim data is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Ministers: Training

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Ministers have received training for undertaking their ministerial duties in each year since 2005; and if she will make a statement. [297100]

Tessa Jowell: Information on training undertaken by Ministers is not held centrally.

Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Unemployment: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley were not in education, employment and training in (i) May 1997 and (ii) each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [295559]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Table 1 as follows shows the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the local education authority (LEA) of Bexley from 2000 to 2008. These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey.

Complete training and education data are unavailable prior to 2000 so estimates of people not in education, employment or education are not available for 1997.

Due to small sample sizes, estimates cannot be provided for areas smaller than LEAs such as constituencies. Please note that these estimates are subject to sampling variability and should be viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/- 0.6pp means that the sampling variability ranges from 0.6pp above the estimate and 0.6pp below the estimate. Confidence intervals have been provided in table 1 as follows.

Table 1: People aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in Bexley

	Number	Percentage	Confidence intervals
2000[2]	2,000	12	+/- 7.7
2001[2]	3,000	13	+/- 7.4
2002[2]	3,000	11	+/- 5.6
2003[2]	2,000	9	+/- 6.4
2004	2,000	8	+/- 6.1
2005	2,000	7	+/- 5.2
2006	4,000	17	+/- 8.3
2007	3,000	12	+/- 6.7
2008	3,000	14	+/- 7.6

[1] Age used is the respondents' academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Estimates prior to 2004 are from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey, the predecessor to the Annual Population Survey. It covers the period from March in the given year to February in the next.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the adult apprenticeship budget managed by the Learning and Skills Council in 2009-10 is planned to be allocated to *(a)* adult Level 2 and adult first Level 2 courses, *(b)* adult first Level 2 and adult first Level 3 courses, *(c)* adult Level 2 and adult first Level 2 courses for 19 to 24 year-olds and *(d)* adult Level 3 and adult first Level 3 courses for 19 to 24 year olds. [296878]

Kevin Brennan: The adult Apprenticeship budget is not separated according to the level of the framework undertaken. The total adult budget available for Apprenticeships for 2009-10 is £390 million.

Apprentices: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding for higher apprenticeships was provided by *(a)* the Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [292442]

Kevin Brennan: Our records show that in 2007-08, £202,000 was spent by the Learning and Skills Council on funding level four or higher-level apprenticeship places. This includes new learners who started an apprenticeship that year and funding those who had started their programme in the previous year. Prior to 2006-07, level four apprenticeships were not available. A higher-level apprenticeship is not an award/qualification and as such the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is unable to capture data regarding provision of that nature.

Higher-level apprenticeships are only available in a limited number of areas, such as engineering and ICT. The Department will shortly publish the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE), which will for the first time set out the essential components and standards for all apprenticeship frameworks. The SASE will require that all frameworks include clear career progression routes, including higher-level apprenticeships and other routes through further and higher education.

Apprentices: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship places in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* Greater London have been lost as a result of the recession in the last 12 months. [297087]

Kevin Brennan: Data about the total number of apprentices made redundant are not currently held centrally. We have put in place for this academic year, from 1 August 2009, arrangements to record the number of apprentices who are made redundant. We expect these data to be available from early in 2010.

Apprentices: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many government-funded apprenticeships have been undertaken in each local authority area in the North West in each of the last five years; [296441]

(2) how many government-funded apprenticeship places were available in each local authority area in the North West in each of the last five years. [296442]

Kevin Brennan: Apprenticeship funding for further education (FE) colleges and providers is set out in a maximum contract value (MCV). This amount reflects the anticipated cost for an academic year of supporting learners continuing on programmes from earlier years as well as new starts. We do not fund on the basis of expected places rather the number of total learners that can be supported in a given year with the funds available.

Planning assumptions for funded apprenticeship places for the 2009/10 academic year were published in the Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council (November 2008). Further to this, we announced a £140 million package to deliver 35,000 extra apprenticeship places over 2009/10. Although information on apprenticeship places is not available, we do publish the number of apprenticeship starts in each academic year, at both a national and sub-national level.

Apprenticeship Starts for 2003/04 to 2007/08 were published in a statistical first release (SFR) on 25 June:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrjun09.

Supplementary table 5.1 shows apprenticeship starts by constituency, local authority, Government office region and England for 2003/04 to 2007/08.

Supplementary table 11.1 shows provisional apprenticeship starts for the first nine months of 2008/09. Provisional full-year figures for 2008/09 were published in a statistical first release on 22 October:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09.

Supplementary geographic breakdowns will be available shortly after the main release.

Bank Services: Fraud

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government is taking to protect members of the public from organised fraudulent schemes which solicit money and bank details; and if he will make a statement. [294069]

Kevin Brennan: On 2 July the Government published the Consumer White Paper "A Better Deal for Consumers: Delivering Real Help Now and Change for the Future". The Paper details plans for more effective enforcement at those that deliberately set out to defraud consumers, often targeting the most vulnerable and to empower consumers through better enforcement and information.

The Office of Fair Trading takes the lead on tackling mass scams. The OFT and Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) lead on the development of the "National Fraud Strategy" in partnership with a wide range of other enforcement, consumer and industry bodies which launched on 19 March 2009. The strategy sets out the UK's strategic priorities to tackle fraud and will provide a framework and long term commitment to making the UK the world's hardest target for fraudsters.

In addition, the Government have invested £7.5 million over three years (in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11) for specialist Trading Standards scambuster teams in Scotland, Wales and every region of England. These are dedicated teams working across local authority boundaries focusing on the hardest-to-tackle scams and rogue trading practices. To date, the teams have uncovered an estimated £30 million worth of fraud, made an estimated £6.5 million of consumer savings, and seized £4.5 million of criminal assets.

Broadband

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of households which have access to high-speed broadband internet; and if he will make a statement. [294013]

Mr. Timms: While there is currently no figure for the number of households in the United Kingdom connected to high speed broadband internet, approximately 12 million households are within reach of fast broadband via Virgin Media's cable network. This covers approximately 50 per cent. of all UK households. BT announced its plans to invest £1.5 billion in a fibre-based super-fast broadband network. They plan to have the service available to one million households by March 2010 and the service should be available to around 40 per cent. of the UK's homes and businesses by 2012. They are currently rolling out superfast broadband to 10,000 homes in Ebbsfleet and have a 40Mbps service pilot scheme to 15,000 homes in Muswell Hill and Whitchurch.

Other high speed broadband developments include H20's Fibrecity scheme to 88,000 homes in Bournemouth and Dundee and Redstone's scheme serving 5,000 homes in Belfast.

Competition

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what criteria his Department's decisions on recommendations referred to it by the competition authorities under the Enterprise Act 2002 are taken. [297260]

Kevin Brennan: There is no set criteria, however all decisions on recommendations made to Government by the competition authorities are considered very carefully. Although it is the role of this Department to formally respond, Government collectively will weigh up a number of factors which include costs and benefits and the impact on the wider economy. The factors taken into account will vary according to the market and the recommendation in question. In addition Government would not want to prejudge or rule out the range or type of issue that might be raised by stakeholders during any consultation that followed.

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the *(a)* Competition Commission and *(b)* Office of Fair Trading has referred a (i) matter and (ii) recommendation to his Department for determination under the provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 since that Act came into force. [297262]

Kevin Brennan: Since the Enterprise Act 2002 came into force, the Competition Commission (CC) and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) published the following market study investigations and market studies respectively which made recommendations to government: These are listed as follows:

CC market investigations

Supply of Groceries in the UK

Supply of Airport Services by BAA in the UK

Rolling [illegible] Leasing

OFT market studies

Pharmacies

Private dentistry in the UK

Regulation of Licensed Taxi and PHV services in the UK

Estate Agency in England and Wales

Doorstep Selling

Public Subsidies

Property Searches

Care Homes

Opium Derivatives

Commercial Use of Public Information

UK Airports

Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

Medicines Distribution

Home Building

Sale and Rent back.

Further details about the CC and OFT reports are available at the following website links:

http://www.oft.gov.uk/advice_and_resources/resource_base/market-studies/

http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/current/index.htm

In addition, the Secretary of State (SoS) has intervened in nine merger cases on public interest grounds. In such cases, final decisions are taken by the SoS based on reports received from competition authorities. A list giving further details can be found at the following website link:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/businesslaw/competition/mergers/public-interest/index.html

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of employment tribunals relating to each of the nine universities in the North West in the latest period for which figures are available. [297893]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not collected by either the Department or the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Framework for Excellence

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from further education colleges on Framework for Excellence 2009. [288191]

Kevin Brennan: Since becoming Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, I have received no representations from any further education college about the Framework for Excellence. The framework was one of several topics covered in a letter (15 June 2009) from the Association of Colleges (AoC), which I replied to on behalf of my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State. It was also part of a subsequent discussion I had with Martin Doel, Chief Executive of

Further Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of adult further education students in Learning and Skills Council-funded provision are 19 to 24 year-olds; [296874]

(2) how many adult further education students are studying *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time; [296875]

(3) how many 19 to 24 year-olds in adult further education are studying *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time. [296872]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows students in LSC funded-provision by age group.

Table 1: LSC-funded participation by age

Age	*Learner numbers*	*Learner (%)*
Under 19	1,061,700	22
19-24	743,900	16
25-34	895,000	19
35-44	887,900	19
45-59	802,300	17
60+	336,600	7
Unknown	27,200	1
Total	4,754,700	100

Table 2 shows LSC-funded further education participation by mode of attendance, for learners of all age groups.

Table 2: LSC-funded participation for all age groups, by mode of attendance

All Learners	*Learner numbers*
Full-Time Full-Year	816,400
Full-Time Part-Year	187,700
Part-Time	3,745,600
Unknown	5,100
Total	4,754,700

Table 3 shows LSC-funded further education participation by mode of attendance, for learners aged between 19 and 24.

Table 3: LSC-funded participation for learners aged between 19 and 24, by mode of attendance.

19-24 year old Learners	*Learner numbers*
Full-Time Full-Year	90,500
Full-Time Part-Year	32,500
Part-Time	620,000
Unknown	900
Total	743,900

Notes:

1. Source data includes ASL, LR and ERILR datasets.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred, and may not sum to total due to rounding.
3. Age is based on academic age at the 3 August of the academic year.
4. Part-time Part Year includes part-time Distance Learning, Open Learning, E-Learning and Evening Learning.
5. FE Students classified for statistical purposes as full-time are defined as those enrolled on programmes of at least 450 guided learning hours per year, or for at least 150 guided learning hours per tri-annual period or more than 16 guided learning hours per week for shorter courses. Full-time students who enrol on a programme of at least 450 guided learning hours per year are classified as full-time full-year. This includes those students who withdraw from the programme during the year and actually attend for less than 450 guided learning hours. Also counted as full-time full-year are students who enrol on programmes of less than 450 guided learning hours but stay longer than expected and actually attend for more than 450 guided learning hours. Full-time students who are not classified as full-time full-year are classified as other full-time. All other students are classified as part-time.

Higher Education: Botany

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students received an undergraduate degree in botany at a university in England in each of the last five years; [297468]

(2) how many PhDs in botany have been awarded by universities in England in each of the last five years. [297469]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Doctorate, first degree and other undergraduate botany qualifiers[1]: UK Higher Education Institutions

	Academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08		
Academic year	*Doctorate*	*First degree*	*Other undergraduate*
2003/04	65	80	55
2004/05	60	60	60
2005/06	55	65	40
2006/07	60	60	55
2007/08	65	45	50

[1] Covers qualifiers of all domiciles from both full-time and part-time courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Insolvency

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many insolvencies there were in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [297848]

Ian Lucas: Official statistics for company insolvencies are not available at local authority level, however figures for England and Wales as a whole are available on the

The number of insolvent individuals in England and Wales is available broken down by the equivalent of local authority levels; these official statistics can be found on the Insolvency Service website here:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/regionalstatisticsmenu.htm

Job Creation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department been created in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [297330]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of new jobs created in (a) England, (b) the North East, (c) Tees Valley and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. (297330).

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in employment from year to year.

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS), and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey, following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached provides estimates where they are available based on people aged 16 and over, in employment, and resident in (a) England, (b) the North East, (c) Tees Valley and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997.

The employment estimates presented in Table 1 for England have been compiled from the APS to be consistent with the regional statistical bulletin estimates for the North East and lower level geographies. Therefore, these estimates differ from headline LFS employment estimates.

Estimates provided for 1997 to 2003, using the Annual Labour Force Survey are for the twelve months from March each year. Estimates for 2004 to 2008, using the APS are for the twelve months ending December in each year. The most recent estimates also use the APS, but are for the twelve months ending March 2009.

As with any survey, results from the APS at a small geographical area are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Numbe[illegible]eople, aged 16 and over, in employment[1] in England, the North East, Tees Valley and Durham[2] and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland Parliamentary Constituency[3], 1997 to 2009

Thousand, not seasonally adjusted

Date	*England*	*North East*	*Tees Valley and Durham*[2]	*Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland*
1997[4]	22,193	1,057	—	43
1998[4]	22,511	1,050	—	41
1999[4]	22,784	1,046	—	43
2000[4]	22,994	1,071	—	39
2001[4]	23,269	1,072	—	40
2002[4]	23,387	1,079	—	41
2003[4]	23,671	1,091	480	43
2004[5]	23,826	1,119	502	46
2005[5]	24,103	1,135	506	44
2006[5]	24,274	1,146	521	47
2007[5]	24,491	1,165	527	49
2008[5]	24,627	1,160	521	44
2009[6]	*24,585	*1,158	**520	***44

[1] Includes those full-time and part-time on New Deal.

[2] Estimates are not currently available at this level of geography before 2003.

[3] 2005 parliamentary constituency boundary revision.

[4] Based on the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) covering the 12 months from March in each year presented.

[5] Based on Annual Population Survey (APS) covering the 12 months to December in each year presented.

[6] Based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) covering the 12 months to March in the year presented.

Notes:

1. As some of these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.
2. Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key	*Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)*	*Statistical Robustness*
*	0 ≤ CV<5	Estimates are considered precise
**	5 ≤ CV <10	Estimates are considered reasonably precise
***	10 ≤ CV <20	Estimates are considered acceptable
****	CV ≥ 20	Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source: Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Learning and Skills Improvement Service: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department is providing to the Learning

proportion this constitutes of the total budget of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service. [296880]

Kevin Brennan: In 2009-10 BIS funding is expected to

Liverpool John Moores University: Manpower

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the rate of staff dismissals at Liverpool John Moores University. [297892]

Mr. Lammy: We have received no representations on this matter. However, as we made clear in Higher Ambitions, published on 3 November, Government will not become involved in decisions about staffing matters made by universities.

Publications

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the PricewaterhouseCoopers report to his Department on the sale by General Motors to Magna of a majority stake in its European division. [295184]

Ian Lucas: The UK-commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers Due Diligence report on the sale by General Motors to Magna of a majority stake in its European division contains information where release may be damaging to international relations, formulation of Government policy and commercial interests. It also contains information provided in confidence. Therefore, it will not be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Students: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students who applied for *(a)* student loans and *(b)* grants from Suffolk local education authority for the (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 academic year received them in time for the start of that year. [296163]

Mr. Lammy: 83 per cent. of student finance applications from Suffolk were approved by 18 October, this compares with 88 per cent. at the equivalent point in the previous year. This excludes applications approved but awaiting student signature. Separate figures are not available for loans and grants, which are covered by the same application form. Higher education institutions have different start dates, so data is not available on applications processed in time for the start of the academic year.

Suffolk application status by academic year[1]

		2008/09		2009/10	
		Position 18 October 2008		*Position 18 October 2009*	
		Number of applications	*Percentage*	*Number of applications*	*Percentage*
Approved		9,700	88	10,100	83
Of which:					
	Course started prior to 18 October and attendance confirmation received	9,100	82	9,400	77
	Course started prior to 18 October and no attendance confirmation yet	500	5	600	5
	Course start after 18 October	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Approved awaiting student signature		300	3	400	4
In progress		500	4	800	6
Online application not completed		200	2	300	3
Ineligible/cancelled		300	3	500	4
Withdrawn/suspended		[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Total applications		11,100	100	12,200	100

[1] Application figures rounded to nearest 100.
[2] Less than 50 applications.
Source:
Student Loans Company.

After the application has been assessed and approved, a student who applied online will then need to sign a declaration form. If they are a new student, their national insurance number will need to be verified with the Department for Work and Pensions. Thereafter payment will be released once confirmation of attendance has been received from the higher education institution.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students who applied for *(a)* student loans and *(b)* grants from (i) Richmond-upon-Thames local

academic year received them in time for the start of that year. [297134]

Mr. Lammy: 80 per cent. of student finance applications from Richmond-upon-Thames were approved by 18 October, this compares with 86 per cent. at the equivalent point in the previous year. This excludes applications approved but awaiting student signature. Separate figures are not available for loans and grants, which are covered by the same application form. Higher Education Institutions have different start dates, so data is not available on

Richmond-upon-Thames application status by academic year[1]

	2008-09 Position at 18 Oct 08 Applications	%	2009-10 Position at 18 Oct 09 Applications	%
Approved	3,300	86	3,300	80
Course started prior to 18 October and Attendance Confirmation				
of which: Received	3,100	80	3,200	76
Course started prior to 18 October and no Attendance Confirmation yet	200	5	200	4
Course Start after 18-10-2008	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Approved awaiting student signature	200	4	300	6
In Progress	300	7	300	7
Online not Completed	100	2	100	3
Ineligible/Cancelled	100	2	200	4
Withdrawn/Suspended	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Total Applications	3,900	100	4,100	100

[1] Application figures rounded to the nearest 100.
[2] Less than 50 applications
Source:
Student Loans Company

After the application has been assessed and approved, a student who applied on-line will then need to sign a declaration form. If they are a new student their National Insurance Number will need to be verified with the Department for Work and Pensions. Thereafter payment will be released once confirmation of attendance has been received from the Higher Education Institution.

England figures on applications in academic years 2008-09 and 2009-10 are available from the SLC website at

www.slc.co.uk/statistics/facts_figures.html

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the timetable is for the Government's review of student funding. [297677]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has announced that the Independent Review of Variable Tuition Fees will be launched this autumn.

It is too early to say precisely how long the review will last, but it will be dealing with complex issues and will require adequate time to consult with the many stakeholders.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much money the Government estimates was made available to higher education students via bursaries in the academic year 2008-09. [297676]

Mr. Lammy: Office for Fair Access (OFFA) collects information annually about bursary payments and publishes a report. OFFA has already published the figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08, and will publish those for 2008-09 in May next year.

Students: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students from Lancashire County Council local education authority area who applied for *(a)* student loans and *(b)* grants for the (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 academic year received them in time for the start of that year. [296745]

Mr. Lammy: 80 per cent. of student finance applications from Lancashire were approved by 18 October, this compares with 79 per cent. at the equivalent point in the previous year. This excludes applications approved but awaiting student signature. Separate figures are not available for loans and grants, which are covered by the same application form. Higher Education Institutions have different start dates, so data is not available on applications processed in time for the start of the academic year.

Lancashire application status by academic year[1]

	2008/09 Position at 18 October 2008 Applications	Percentage	2009/10 Position at 18 October 2009 Applications	Percentage
Approved	20,200	79	21,400	80
Of which:				
Course started prior to 18 October and attendance confirmation received	18,900	74	20,000	75
Course started prior to 18 October and no attendance confirmation yet	1,300	5	1,400	3
Course start after 18 October	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Approved awaiting student signature	1,300	5	1,100	4

Lancashire application status by academic year[1]

	2008/09		2009/10	
	Position at 18 October 2008		Position at 18 October 2009	
	Applications	Percentage	Applications	Percentage
Ineligible/cancelled	400	2	1,400	5
Withdrawn/suspended	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Total applications	25,600	100	26,800	100

[1] Application figures rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Less than 50 applications.

Source:
Student Loans Company

After the application has been assessed and approved, a student who applied online will then need to sign a declaration form. If they are a new student their national insurance number will need to be verified with the Department for Work and Pensions. Thereafter payment will be released once confirmation of attendance has been received from the Higher Education Institution.

Students: Loans

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid out in maintenance and tuition fee loans by the Student Loan Company *(a)* in total and *(b)* to students resident in Coventry in the academic year 2008-09. [297675]

Mr. Lammy: Early provisional England figures for the academic year 2008/09 are available from the Statistical First Release Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008/09 (Provisional), available from the Student Loans Company website at

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr052008.pdf.

This gives early figures of £2,541.2 million maintenance loans and £2,047.7 million tuition fee loans. Figures will increase with late applications. Updated figures will be published in November 2009.

Estimated early provisional figures for Coventry domiciled students, at the same point as the Statistical First Release, give around £14.7 million maintenance loans and around £11.7 million tuition fee loans in academic year 2008/09. Figures will increase with late applications.

Technology Strategy Board: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Technology Strategy Board has allocated to *(a)* businesses and *(b)* video games businesses in 2008-09. [293982]

Mr. Lammy: During the financial year 2008-09 the Technology Strategy Board offered grant funding of £117.1 million to new projects involving UK businesses. Of this, £577,000 went to projects involving UK video games businesses.

University Centre Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to discuss with the Higher Education Funding Council for England future plans for the number of student places at the University Centre, Peterborough under the auspices of Anglia Ruskin University; and if he will make a statement. [297837]

Mr. Lammy: I am pleased to report that the Higher Education Funding Council for England announced on 5 October 2009 that 200 new Additional Student Numbers (full time equivalent) would be made available for the university centre at Peterborough in 2010-11. HEFCE has contributed £5 million to the development of this project. However, I should make clear that under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 I take no part in these individual funding decisions.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will allow employee-responsive funding allocated for financial year 2010-11 by the Learning and Skills Council to be drawn down in financial year 2009-10 in order to pay for training being provided in that financial year. [296432]

Kevin Brennan: Authority to spend or commit resource is agreed by Parliament through the estimates process which sets the expenditure limits for each Department one year at a time. Departments are not permitted to commit expenditure that exceeds these limits.

In November 2008 we set out the 2009-10 financial year allocation to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). This showed an increase of nearly 15 per cent. in employer responsive (Train to Gain and Adult Apprenticeships) funding compared to 2008-09 financial year.

Funding allocations for 2010-11 financial year will be announced later this autumn.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 26 October 2009

DEFENCE

Combat Stress

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has provided to each Combat Stress centre for providing treatment to war pensioners in each of the last 10 years; and how many pensioners have been treated at each such centre. [283075]

[Official Report, 3 July 2009, Vol. 495, c. 461W.]

Letter of correction from Kevan Jones:

I am writing to inform you that, unfortunately, an error has been identified in the written answer given to you 3 July 2009. The original answer referred to the number of war pensioners receiving treatment and stated:

> "in order to give some indication of the numbers of war pensioners receiving treatment, we can state that in Financial Year 2007-08 some 1,200 individuals, funded through the auspices of the War Pensions Scheme, were treated at the three Combat Stress sites"

It has now become clear that the figure of 1,200 individuals was potentially misleading, in that individuals will have been counted more than once if they attended on more than one occasion. The revised answer now reflects the true number of separate individuals who received treatment in 2007-08.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Kevan Jones: Funds are provided through the War Pensions Scheme's discretionary power to meet the cost of any necessary expenses in respect of medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment of ex-members of the armed forces that arise from a disablement due to service before 6 April 2005 where it is not provided for under other UK legislation. This includes the individual costs of war pensioners undergoing remedial treatment at homes run by Combat Stress for conditions related to their individual pensioned disablement and of related expenses such as travel costs. Combat Stress receives separate funding from the Scottish Executive for war pensioners' resident in Scotland who receive treatment at Hollybush House.

The following table shows the funding received by Combat Stress to defray individual treatment expenses under the War Pensions Scheme for the past eight years.

	Funding (£ million)
2001-02	1.2
2002-03	1.5
2003-04	1.6
2004-05	2.0
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	2.5
2007-08	3.2
2008-09	3.5

Funding figures for the previous two years and a complete breakdown of the number of war pensioners treated at each centre can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, in order to give some indication of the numbers of war pensioners receiving treatment, we can state that in Financial Year 2007-08 some 600 individuals, funded through the auspices of the War Pensions Scheme, were treated at the three Combat Stress sites, in some cases on more than one occasion.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 28 October 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential new build planning applications were granted in each of the last five years; and what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of residential new build sites with planning permission which have not been developed. [292694]

[Official Report, 16 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 1120W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Ian Austin:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 October 2009. The figure given for the number of planning applications granted on residential dwellings for the year 2004-05 was incorrect and should read 52,600. I have notified the MP of the error.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of planning applications for residential developments that have been granted for last five years is set out in the table:

Planning applications granted on residential developments in England[1]

	Applications granted on residential dwellings
2003-04	49,500
2004-05	52,600
2005-06	51,300
2006-07	49,500
2007-08	50,500

[1] England figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and include estimates for non-responding authorities.

Notes:

Information for 2008-09 to be published on 29 October 2009.

Source:

Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns

Information on whether planning applications have been developed or not is not held centrally.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 29 October 2009

WORK AND PENSIONS

Topical Questions

Rob Marris (Wolverhampton, South-West) (Lab): Earlier today the Minister told me that the Child Support Agency was going to get even more powers for enforcement. When will the Government stop giving the CSA more powers for enforcement and actually ensure that it uses the enforcement powers it already has?

[Official Report, 19 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 636.]

Letter of correction from Helen Goodman:

An error has been identified in an oral answer given to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton, South-West (Rob Marris) on 19 October 2009. The original answer was as follows:

Helen Goodman: I can inform my hon. Friend that CMEC is using its powers extremely effectively. The maintenance collected has now reached £1.136 billion, which is £157 million above the target.

The correct answer should have been:

Helen Goodman: I can inform my hon. Friend that CMEC is using its powers extremely effectively. The maintenance collected has now reached £1.136 billion, which is £1 million above the target.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 3 November 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding since it was established; and how much funding was provided to each. [247376]

[Official Report, 27 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 449-50W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. McFadden:

I wanted to advise you that officials in the Department have identified an error made by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for higher education, my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon), at the then Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

In the reply given on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 450W, on departmental funding of charities and voluntary organisations, my hon. Friend referred to some of the Department's non-departmental bodies that are registered charities, and said that the funding provided to the Design Council was as follows:

			£000
Name of body	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Design Council	6,179	6,069	6,035

Unfortunately, the figures for 2008-09 did not include capital grant in aid funding, or additional funding for specific projects and there was an error in the 2006-07 figure. The correct figures are as follows:

			£000
Name of body	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Design Council	6,035	6,069	6,435

I am sorry for the error.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ethiopia

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Twenty-five years after the famine in Ethiopia that killed over a million people, there is once again a growing drought and conflict-related humanitarian crisis in the horn of Africa.

Ethiopia accounts for the highest proportion of the humanitarian caseload in the region, with over 6 million people needing emergency assistance until the end of 2009. A third of these people live in the Somali region of Ethiopia. UNICEF estimates that there are currently over 500,000 acutely malnourished children in Ethiopia. A further 7.5 million vulnerable Ethiopians receive food and cash transfers under a Productive Safety Net Programme.

[Official Report, 19 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 47-48WS.]

Letter of correction from Douglas Alexander:

An error has been identified in the second paragraph of the written ministerial statement made on 19 October 2009 where it refers to "over 500,000 acutely malnourished children in Ethiopia".

The correct full text should have been:

> "Ethiopia accounts for the highest proportion of the humanitarian caseload in the region, with over 6 million people needing emergency assistance until the end of 2009. A third of these people live in the Somali region of Ethiopia. UNICEF estimates that there are currently over 500,000 severely acutely malnourished children in the Horn of Africa, of whom more than half are in Ethiopia. A further 7.5 million vulnerable Ethiopians receive food and cash transfers under a Productive Safety Net Programme."